Daily Report

Latin America

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Ambassadors Argue Over 'Age Old' Conflict

PY2709182988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0419 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] United Nations, 26 Sep (TELAM-EFE)—The opening session of the UN General Assembly adjourned today amid a verbal confrontation between the Chilean and Bolivian ambassadors, who for more than 20 minutes argued about the age old maritime conflict between the two countries.

Chilean Ambassador Pedro Daza asked to speak after the last speaker on the session's agenda had finished, in order to rebut the accusations that were made by Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal during his address to the UN General Assembly.

The Bolivian foreign minister called the Chilean Government's attitude "aggressive" and "haughty" because they had "arrogantly" rejected a proposed solution to the problem.

Daza lamented these remarks, and after recalling that the border between the two countries was definitively established by the Peace and Friendship Treaty that was signed 84 years ago, he stressed that "There are no pending questions between our two countries."

He called the 1904 treaty "A permanent instrument of peace, an effective document to be used to perfect the relations between the two countries, and one that has eliminated any type of controversy between them. Therefore, there is no controversy between Chile and Bolivia," he added.

The Chilean ambassador concluded by stressing that "The current Chilean Government has been, and always will be, willing to seek all possible formulas to improve free transit, to use our imagination in the integration of the economies of the two countries, and to progress with effective and modern cooperation formulas."

By this time Foreign Minister Bedregal had already left the session, therefore Special Ambassador Mario Ojara Agreda, the Bolivian delegation chief, replied urging the Chilean Government to return to the negotiating table to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"The lack of an outlet to the sea must be modified in order to extend to Bolivia the practice of peace and friendly relations between two bordering Latin American countries, Ojara Agreda said.

Daza immediately countered this remark denying that Bolivia is a landlocked country, but it can count on the "best Free Transit Treaty that exists," and he stressed that the territory in dispute has "always been inhabited by Chileans, has been developed thanks to the work of Chileans without any contribution from Bolivians."

Ojara Agreda concluded by calling some of his Chilean colleague's remarks "cynical" and he added that the 1904 treaty was "a burden for my country because it was the consequence of aggression."

He also reiterated that if the conflict is not resolved within the framework of the OAS, his country will submit it to the United Nations.

CEA Agreement on Terrorists Use of Media

PY2709221088 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 88 p A-8

["Text" of Agreement no 14 reportedly signed by U.S. and Latin American Army commanders at meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, held 16-20 November, 1987]

[Text] 1. Subject: Operations aimed at exerting psychological pressure and on the use of the media in fighting terrorism.

2. Objective: To establish a course of action to grant that, in their fight against subversion and within the security system comprised by them, the American armies take an active role in reducing or eliminating the advantage subversives take of the media.

3. Scope: Based on the events being experienced in each country, the CEA [Conference of the Armies of America] will analyze the situation resulting from subversive actions and the support subversives receive—directly or indirectly—from the media, two facts that are a permanent threat to the security of the American countries. This analysis is aimed at unifying the criteria and the doctrines of the CEA regarding this threat.

4. Resolution: Considering:

A. That sensationalism with which the media handles news regarding terrorist acts functions as a means of propaganda that indirectly favors the goals of subversion;

B. That the subversives takes advantage of the advanced technology used by the media, and uses it to transform murder and destructive acts into operations with which the international communist movement exerts psychological pressure on the people;

C. That the manipulation of the media by seemingly law-abiding fronts used by subversives finds ways of justifying their actions and of discrediting antisubversive actions;

D. That the unrestricted freedom of the media, which has been constitutionally established to serve the national interest of a country, is directly or indirectly used by subversives to shake the bases of society in a clear attempt to destroy it and to replace it by another society presumedly more fair;

E. That it is necessary to become aware of this psychosocial reality in order to plan actions to be applied nationwide, including the planning of psychological operations aimed at supporting operations against terrorism;

F. That it is necessary to count on trained personnel in order to obtain greater effectiveness in the psychological operations;

G. That it is necessary to create a more effective media to counterbalance the disinformation campaign sponsored by subversives at an international level;

H. That it is important that the American Armies jointly seek a solution to counterbalance the strategy employed by subversives at regional levels;

It is resolved:

A. To hold bilateral or multilateral meetings of the Armies of America to strengthen the cooperation ties through the exchange of experiences in psychological operations;

B. To make known through the SEPCEA (Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Conference of American Armies) all the experiences and teachings that the members of the armies may have on the subject and that it may serve for the drafting of methods aimed at counterbalancing the terrorist propaganda.

C. To assist the respective governments so that information programs aimed at counterbalancing subversive propaganda can be implemented.

Cuba

Quadripartite Negotiations in Brazzaville Viewed

'Difficulties' Cited

FL2709181188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Cuba has reiterated its absolute disposition for an understanding at the quadripartite negotiations on the situation in southwest Africa. This was said in Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo, by Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesman for the Cuban delegation. In a statement to the press, Hidalgo said that the bases to achieve an agreement among Angola, Cuba, the United States, and South Africa have been consolidated regarding the conflict in the southwest Africa region.

The Cuban delegation arrived in Brazzaville on Sunday to participate in the seventh round of talks, which has as its essential points the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia and the gradual and total withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, as well as respect for the sovereignty and integrity of the latter.

The conference is scheduled for 3 days. Prior to its official start, the representatives from the United States and South Africa held a meeting in the M'Bamou Palace Hotel, where all the committees are staying.

Press agencies in Brazzaville consider it improbable that the four participating delegations will be able to finish the official talks within the set schedule. The main difficulties center around the timetable for the gradual and total withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola and the application of Resolution 435. In previous meetings held in London, Cairo, New York, Geneva, and Brazzaville, the four countries agreed on 1 November for the initial process of the decolonization of Namibia, illegally occupied by Pretoria. For its part, South Africa insists on linking compliance with the resolution with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. This last part is considered in the agreement reached in New York, and later ratified by the governments of Luanda, Havana, Washington, and Pretoria, as a bilateral matter whose decision rests solely with Angola and Cuba. With respect to this, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said recently that the United Nations considers that aspect as a matter that only concerns the Angolan and Cuban Governments.

Stand on Withdrawal Timetable

FL2709211288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] In previous quadripartite talks, the South African apartheid regime had committed itself to begin withdrawing its occupation troops from Namibia on 1 November. During today's bilateral contacts and negotiating sessions taking place in the People's Republic of Congo, representatives of the South African delegation began to say that the withdrawal of its troops on 1 November is more and more unlikely. The South African apartheid regime is now bringing back its linkage [preceding word in English] policy, that is, linking the Cuban internationalist forces in Angola with Namibia's independence. This argument was rejected the first time around by the international community.

The People's Republic of Angola, faced with South African attacks, asked our country for help. This was Angola's sovereign decision. Cuba's solidarity response was also a sovereign action in line with the UN Charter. Thus, South Africa's demand on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a condition for its withdrawal from Namibia surpasses the framework of the negotiations and constitutes interference in matters that only concern Angola and Cuba. With the possibility of resolving the South African conflict, Cuba and Angola propose a 3-year timetable for the withdrawal of our forces. We believe that Namibia's independence and the end of threats to Angola could move up the timetable, but this will never happen because of the demands of the South African aggressor.

Delegations 'Far Apart'

FL2809012588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The 2d day of the third round of quadripartite negotiations being held in Brazzaville took place without a direct meeting among delegations of the United States, South Africa, Cuba, and Angola. This has happened for the first time since the beginning of the negotiations and indicates that the positions among the various parties continue to be far apart.

Neil Van Heerden, head of the South African delegation, said yesterday that Pretoria intends to give a 1-year period for the end of the colonial occupation of Namibia and the complete withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

It is considered in Brazzaville that this South African aim constitutes a fundamental obstacle for the development of these negotiations.

Cuban spokesman Alcibiades Hidalgo said the only possible link between one thing and the other is the certainty that the racist troops withdraw to their territory.

Castro Discusses Tourism Plans, Medical Issues

FL2709155388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1331 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, presided over a working meeting last night during which the progress and future plans for tourism development in Varadero

were throughly analyzed. At the conclusion of last night's session, though early this morning, Fidel held a meeting with a group of journalists at the management office of the Varadero enterprise.

[Begin recording in progress] [Castro] ... [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] We know that today you held a meeting here, in Varadero, to analyze the development problems of oil and tourism.

[Castro] Yes, however, I analyzed the oil situation last Friday over there. It was Friday, right?

[Reporter] Yes, it was Friday.

[Castro] Friday, in Havana. Here, in Varadero, oil and tourism are related. Because, fortunately or unfortunately, the largest oil deposit of the Matanzas Province is here in the zone of Varadero. This requires a reconciliation of the two things. We do not intend to drill any more in the peninsula. Instead, we will drill in the area outside of the peninsula. We must exploit that deposit without drilling in the province, and it is not necessary to drill in order to exploit. The other deposit in this province is not so large. Furthermore, there is no comparison between what the peninsula can produce in oil and with what the peninsula can produce in revenue for the country. There is no comparison.

[Reporter] In tourism?

[Castro] In tourism. That is why we have arrived at a clear understanding. We discussed it the other day with oil workers. We are also going to give great support to the oil workers for the work they have to do. Some of that involves getting rid of the aiport that is here, within 1 year. The airport is practically on top of the population. Furthermore, it is the area that the oil workers need. They need that area to drill, and for their installations. That is why (?we) have taken all the measures to (?seal it off). For a time, there will be oil derricks, then there won't be any. There will only be drilling using modern methods which will allow us to get all the gas and the oil without the environmental contamination problems. It will not smell like oil. In 2 or 3 years, there will not be any oil derricks, not even outside the peninsula. All the wells that need to be built will have already been built.

[Reporter] Has the idea of drilling in the peninsula been (discarded)?

[Castro] There will not be any drilling in the peninsula. Furthermore, there are three open wells which will not be tested. Calculations have been made for an estimate of fuel; however, it's very risky. Besides, it's too much of a shock to tourism. Tourists come looking for air, not to look at oil derricks which reminds them of their daily lives. We have cautiously and purposefully decided not to drill in the peninsula.

At the same time, we have have decided to intensify the work in the area where the greatest oil deposit is. A lot of work will also be done in the bay, in the [word indistinct] areas, and in the Cardenas Bay. We will also be working in the Cienega de Majaguillar, where a causeway is under construction; it's already approximately 9 km long. They are working very hard there. There may even be a few more causeways in the bay. However, we must also take measures so to ensure that under no circumstances there will be [shifts thought].

We are conducting studies for the control of this canal. This canal, which did not exist, was man-made prior to the revolution. It connects Varadero Beach with Cardenas Bay. However, it could also cause the water which passes through it to contaminate the sand. Therefore, we want to control that canal. Above all, we want to ensure that if there is ever a problem with the oil of the bay, it will not pass through that canal. We are studing the ways in which to control that canal with a lock gate, or a floodgate. They call it a lock gate, but it's really a floodgate, something which seals off the canal but also controls it. This is being studied keeping in mind the quality of the sand and protecting the beach from any contamination which could come from the bay.

Furthermore, all the measures to be taken will be very strict. Who can give a 100- or 200-percent guarantee that there will not be an oil spill? We must foresee everything so that it won't happen. We must also have the means to clean it up, so that it won't go to the other side. We must have very strict measures in Matanzas. That is where the supertanker port is located. We are still need two ships, we will eventually have four of them.

[Reporter] You insisted on that?

[Castro] Yes.

[Reporter] When you visited [word indistinct]?

[Castro] Yes, and now there is absolute control of oil, especially to the east of Varadero. The Majaguillar oil deposit may be the most productive of this whole area, but we'll have to test it. We have also drawn up an accelerated drilling plan for the wells. This is to outline the oil deposit areas which are to the east of Cardenas and of the beaches in that area. Those are two areas in which tourism and oil could have clashed, but we have reconciled them. The other day, we examined not only the program in Varadero but the whole national oil program. We looked at the problems, the measures to be taken, in all areas, and we agreed on a set of measures to give impetus to the search for oil.

[Reporter] The search and extraction?

[Castro] Of course. We must search but without breaking the cycle. We (?can) accelerate it. Instead of taking 2 years to drill a well, we can do it in 7 months. That is the type of acceleration we can [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Are extraction plans currently behind schedule because of drilling problems?

[Castro] We are having some problems of both types. We are having some problems in the Boca de Jaruco zone. We are having technical problems and water contamination. Therefore, we have some problems which are forcing us to reduce oil extraction in the Boca de Jaruco area. If forces us to close some wells, open others, and to apply certain techniques to resolve the problem where water has appeared in certain wells. We are studying all of this. [Word indistinct] also have a program to work there. We have also analyzed in great detail the situation of Boca de Jaruco wells. We have analyzed measures to be taken there, the strengthening of means for construction, the brigade for the land-platform movement, the facilities which must be built to support the whole national oil activity. We have also incluided support for the brigades which build platforms. We agreed on a very good camp program for the oil workers.

[Reporter] To improve living conditions?

[Castro] Yes, to improve their living conditions. They will have units which will include kitchens in each of the camp (?areas). It will be comfortable and have all the facilities, recreation, and everything. We examined the program, and it's very good. We also looked at salary issues and other matters regarding the workers. You must understand that there is great competition here between tourism and oil.

[Reporter] That's logical.

[Castro] This tourism will result in high wages for workers. We must keep in mind that the conditions of the oil workers are difficult. We also have had to look at the fact that the most important oil deposits of the country are in this area. So, we must look for a way to avoid harmful competition between the tourism and oil industries.

[Reporter] So, commander, today's meeting was about the development of tourism here in Varadero?

[Castro] Tourism, basically. However, we had already resolved some problems. At the oil meeting, we have already decided to stop drilling here. We have agreed on a 1-year deadline to get rid of the airport here. We used to stop every time we opened a well, then we would operate it again. Since we have made a lot of progress in the construction of runways, we have drawn up a program for the accelerated construction of the facilities which are needed in the airport. We want to see if in 1 year [interrupted by reporter]

[Reporter] One year from today?

[Castro] Yes, 1 year from today. We have set 25 September.

[Reporter] Of next year?

[Castro] Next year. We have set a high goal. We belive we can reach it with all the measures [shifts thought]. You will have an airport operating perfectly in 1 year. We will finish expanding the runway, we will build the taxiway, what is it called? All the lateral roads. And where we have nothing now, there will be facilities to welcome personnel. We have already made the plans.

[Reporter] With regards to oil, is it possibile for the country to reach 1 million tons [words indistinct]?

[Castro] The country will not reach 1 million tons right away. Because of the problems we had at Boca de Jaron, we had to reduce the production to half. We had problems with the water contamination, the water was mixed with the oil. There are technical but complex solutions to that problem. Furthermore, we should not do this in a hurry. If for a particular exploitation we need 50 wells, we should not try to extract that oil from 30 wells. This could result in some imbalances in dynamic factors, as they call it. It could be damaging. It could reduce the amount that could be extracted and cause some problems. That is why you can't hurry this. If you need to build a causeway, you should build it quickly, and quickly install the machine. We are conducting studies on time reduction for drilling. We know what factors are involved. Some of those factors have to do with materials, so some tests will be run, expecially in exploration. We have already calculated the number of machines we have now, and how many we will have in 1989, 1990 for a truly accelerated program but without skipping stages. We cannot skip stages.

[Reporter] Commander, going back to tourism. Are there plans to continue increasing the rate of construction for hotels?

[Castro] Almost everything we basically agreed upon here was on tourism. During the agenda, we looked at the state of the construction forces, their equipment, and the supply of construction materials. We throughly examined that today. We also adopted all the measures to fulfill a very ambitious program which will increase room capacity by over 5,000 between now and 1991. In the next 3 to 4 years, there will be over 5,000 rooms [interrupted by reporter]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] special, besides the facilities, the work of man. As a matter of fact, a few days ago, the training plenum was held here in Varadero. I would like to clarify in this area, especially the work of [Castro interrupts]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] put things in order, exploitation and services. I was answering a question regarding the construction aspect of this. We plan that by next year there will be over 5,000 [passage indistinct] organized forces some of which are working now in Havana. There

are other organized forces which are working in Villa Clara, some contingents with very high productivity. We have [word indistinct] from Havana and another one from Santa Clara.

We have also reviewed the total state of the equipment and how to add to this. Above all, we have given much attention to assuring the supply of material. These forces will be organized as a contingent. They will have a spirit, a special work regiment and the human factor here allows the perfect organization of a contingent. In the near future, groups focused on serving man's needs such as, housing, food, and other factors will be organized as contingents. The food here is good. It could even be better.

You question referred to the other problem. The enterprise spoke here and explained all the results, the evolution from 1985 to the present, the incomes from 1985 to the present, and the possibilities for greater income if certain needs in transportation, shipping, supplies for attention to man were resolved. We have developed certain interesting ideas on this that indicate what the province, the country has to produce or what would have to be imported in certain cases to give the tourist what he wants, what he needs.

We discussed training plans. We'll have three different types of enterprises here, those of the Intur [National Institute of Tourism]—in addition to the constructions planned by the Intur—those of Cubanacan, and the mixed enterprises, hotels that will be joint property. There won't be many.

Development will primarily occur between Intur and Cubanacan with hotels that are not comprised of mixed societies. Cubanacan is a corporation that acts as an independent unit. I do not want to give an advanced definition of what it is, but it is an independent institution that has extensively considered the interests of the country. It is responsible for its own credit, its own debt, and the credit payments it makes. It is really an institution that acts independently but is extensively associated with the interests of the country. It is a necessary type of institution for the country.

Cubanacan will also have some hotels that are mixed enterprises... [corrects himself] mixed hotels in partnership with capitalist enterprises—some of them. The majority of them will be property of Cubanacan or Intur.

The hotels that are property of Intur or Cubanacan may also be used by the country's nationals during the time of year when there is so much demand. Foreign demand decreases in the summer while national demand increases tremendously.

[Reporter] Foreign demand is also increasing.

[Castro] Surprisingly, it is increasing and that's not bad because this creates a solid economic base for the great development plan we have for tourism.

There will be... [changes thought] We'll have 30,000 rooms. How many rooms were there when this program began?

[Reporter] There were 2,800.

[Castro] There were 2,800. It will increase 15 times. If there is sufficient external demand, we will be able to carry out this plan completely. The more hotels we have for international tourism, the more we'll also have for national tourism in the summer months when the people come here. We're going to assume that 30 to 40 percent of our international tourism will benefit from this. If you have 10,000 rooms, 6,000 of them may be used for national tourism. If you have 30,000 rooms, 12,000 of them may be used for international tourism and 18,000 for national tourism and the personnel will be much better trained. In order to compete in international tourism, there is no doubt that the personnel have to be very well trained and of high quality.

[Reporter] We don't have it.

[Fidel] No, we don't have it.

[Reporter] We were talking about this with one of our comrades who did a survey....

[Castro, interrupting] It is a great challenge.

[Reporter] One of our comrades here from the AIN [National News Agency] was telling us he did a survey. He interviewed some foreign tourists and they spoke to him about some of the problems we have with the quality of service.

[Castro] They know. They know and we're aware of it. It is a great challenge for us because the quality will allow us to compete.

The country has many advantages. The country is sound; it is orderly. It is a healthy country. There are many things. The natural environment is excellent. However, we've lost the idea of how to treat a tourist during all those years without them. It is a culture we must acquire. I stated this during the Matanzas ceremony. It is one of our great challenges and we are confident that this situation is improving. We are progressing in this. In addition, these workers will have important incomes. There is no doubt. We are seeking formulas, roads that will lead to much better quality but there are some things that do not solely depend on the workers.

Sometimes a tourist here will not get any fruit. We have to guarantee the availability of national fruit. It may also be necessary to guarantee some imported fruit. Either way, you're performing a trade operation. It's not right

for tourists to come here in January and February.... [changes thought] There are no mangos then. It's not mango season. During mango season, they'll eat many mangos. In avocado season they'll eat many avocados. Pineapple also can't be supplied all year long. Citrus can be supplied all year long. Plaintain can also be supplied all year long unless a hurricane passes over the length of the island as the last one did. We can guarantee it. It's a matter of working on this.

Conversely, I've said the same thing to the party. I've expressed the idea of developing an industry around tourism, of crafts, industrial products, and handmade garments with all the quality that is required. We should provide options for the tourist.

There are some things that do not depend on tourism workers. If we don't have fruit, if we don't guarantee it.... [does not finish sentence]. We must guarantee it all and when national production can't be guaranteed, we must guarantee imports, which are always better because they're treated as a trade operation. We must also give more careful attention to the tourist.

[Repoter] Commander, you spoke about a tourism culture.

[Castro] Yes.

[Reporter] I think it's an extensive concept that not only pertains to tourism work but applies to the entire population. The tourist does not only interact with the tourism worker. For example, the tourist arrives here in Cardenas, in the city of Matanzas in Matanzas Province. Then this concept....

[Castro, interrupting] They might get in a car there or they may see people riding bicycles in Cardenas. They might go to Las Cuevas de Bellamar. There are many places to go. Many of them want to visit places like schools. The problem is that the school people complain. They say that if they have tourists visit the schools every day, we'll have to make adjustments, too. Many people want to visit the schools and certain institutions.

[Reporter] They take advantage of our health services.

[Castro] I think that this service will become an independent branch.

[Reporter] An important source of income.

[Castro] Yes, a source of income for the country. It will become an independent branch. We now need to establish the appropriate institutions right here now that we have tens of thousands of tourists.

[Reporter] We have the prestige for this.

[Castro] They should provide medical services, doctors, and sufficient experience.

As you also know, we're building a highway. We'll later connect the airport directly with Matanzas on a much shorter road. However, the highway will extend to Matanzas. Something else we'll have to do is go around the dike. The road will have to go around this. It's a headache; the city is a labyrinth when you have to drive through there. There's a tremendous amount of traffic.

[Reporter] Through the bridge....

[Castro, interrupting] I think I'll have to speak to Luis [Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first party secretary in Matanzas Province]. What are we going to do to get to the other side of the dike? The solution will have to be construction in the city of Matanzas for those people who are coming from Havana.

[Reporter] There's an old project, a viaduct.

[Castro] We're going to do it. Yes, yes, we're going to do it. It's indispensable. Have you seen the traffic congestion that is produced....

[Reporter, interrupting] It's because the city's bridges are so old now.

[Castro] Yes, that is also true but the solution for the dike and the viaduct will tremendously relieve the situation.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castro] (?yes)

[Reporter] It would also greatly benefit Matanzas.

[Castro] Of course, and I think it will help develop tourism.

[Reporter] We also know of....

[Castro, interrupting] We need thousands of workers. In time, this can produce hundreds of millions of dollars for the country. This is a gold mine. We must proceed and make the proper use of it.

[Reporter] It indirectly develops all the [words indistinct].

[Castro] Tremendously. We have a great source for employees. We have a great source for employees [repeats himself]. There is no shortage of workers but there is the possibility of better rationalization, higher production, and increased income. The ideal would be for the majority of workers to come from Matanzas Province. That would be the ideal. They would have high incomes. Of course, we need stability from these people

Oil also generates a high income for the province. The province is very privileged in that sense to have two very important economic sources.

[Reporter] Commander, there are tourist centers that are not exactly in Varadero and this development requires that they be improved, such as the....

[Castro, interrupting] Yes, in the province, but we also have plans in other areas of Cuba. We have tourism plans for the entire island.

[Reporter] In the (?Cayeria del norde).

[Castro] We have plans everywhere. However, today we discussed Varadero because it has to be the experimental center of tourism here. If we can find solutions for Varadero, we can find solutions everywhere else. We had an extensive plan and we have fulfilled it all. Problems have been resolved. They have been strengthened. Equipment has been assigned [words indistinct] meeting without losing any time. We only had two very brief breaks, nothing more. We spoke.... [changes thought] I'm sure you've seen the results. We spoke of material industry, transportation so that Varadero can have its own means without having to depend on anyone else. It has to bring in rock, sand, bulldozers, tile, bricks, and nails. They have to go get it. They shouldn't have to depend on anyone to guarantee supplies.

The brigades have been strengthened in equipment and new brigades will be created. We estimate that the Sixth Congress Contingent will have close to 500 members. They are professional workers that we are currently organizing. They are the ones building the Miguel Henriquez Hospital. They will come here to build the airport. When the brigade that is working in Purio finishes building a large windmill from sand and rock, they will also come here. We will thus move all the work force we need here. We will meet here again in 6 months, not just to control the plan; it must be controlled every day. We will not meet to assess the progress of the plan, but we will meet to once again analyze the strategic matters of this program.

[Reporter] Commander, speaking of the strategic plan, which do you think would produce the highest income—tourism or oil development in Matanzas?

[Castro] Tourism should produce more. We are assuming we will accomplish these goals. These are hypotheses.

One million tons of oil produced at the current prices may be worth $50 million. If we produce 2 million tons of oil, it may be worth $100 million

Coinvestments are costly. Let me tell you, coinvestments are very costly. We can do it; we're doing it with the Soviets. We are carrying out this plan with our own resources. National resources are being used to carry out the Varadero plan. While we need large investments, we are receiving a large amount of international cooperation. If we produce 2 million tons, it will be worth $100 million. We estimate that in 8, 10, or 12 years, Varadero can generate between $300 and $400 million using its national resources.

Studies have indicated that one of the greatest demands as of the year 2000 will be in the tourism field on the part of those capitalist countries and other countries that are highly developed and have high incomes. As we have explained many times, their incomes have largely been the result of pillaging the Third World. Nevertheless, plans are being made for this demand.

The other day, I read that it is estimated that in the year 2000, there will be approximately 6 billion tourists in the world. If we take 1 percent of 1 billion, that's 1 million. If we take 3 percent of 1 thousand, that's.... [corrects himself]. No, if we take 3 out of every thousand [corrects himself] 1 per thousand, we would have a million tourists for every billion. If we take 2 out of every thousand, we'd have 2 million tourists and if we take 3 out of every thousand tourists, we'll have 3 million. [all figures as heard]

For example, we're not talking about 20 or 30 million tourists. However, 3 million tourists can generate important income for the country. Tourism is the area of the economy where convertible income can immediately be made. It is the most promising area. We should not work on this area alone. We should work on all areas and we will, but this is one of the most promising areas. That is why this is worth the effort.

Now you have asked me which would bring more income to the country. Varadero's possibilities are five or six times greater than that of the oil industry. We have a large resource there in tourism. Matanzas has a large mine in tourism.

We have to seek efficiency, productivity, and quality in services. This will require thousands and thousands of workers. The province....

[Reporter, interrupting] We will need workers that are highly skilled.

[Castro] They will have to be well trained. They will need to know languages. They will have to know many things. The workers will have an important income. That is why I think this is very promising for Matanzas Province.

[Reporter] Commander, tourism has become a mineral deposit in several mines.

[Castro] Yes, it has become an oil mine, a tourism mine.

[Reporter] And the citrus industry?

[Castro] Matanzas has one of the largest citrus plantations in the world. It has very good possibilities. I think it's one of the things that we can be proud of. The harvest is good. [Video shows Castro looking down at reporter]

Hurry, change your cassette.

[Reporter] I've changed it, commander.

[Castro] I was saying the harvest had good possibilities and there is a new center. As I said here, Matanzas has one of the highest productions in the country. We also have hydraulic plans. One of the things we discussed was water. We discussed measuring water because there has been a tremendous waste of water here in Varadero. We need another aqueduct to double the availability of water. We'll later have to triple the availability of water. We are developing all those sources, hydraulic programs. The province has resources. Varadero will not be lacking water but there is a need to conserve it. The costs are tremendous. The network must be reconstructed. It must be reconstructed because much water is lost in the Matanzas network.

These are some ideas we discussed. We discussed the aqueduct and we organized a brigade to construct the aqueduct and reconstruct the Varadero aqueduct [as heard]. There will be much work here between the oil and tourism industries.

[Reporter] Commander, there is an old saying among the people of Matanzas.

[Castro] Yes.

[Reporter] We think that in the measure that we comply with these plans in the citrus, oil, and tourism sectors, would we be able to hold a national event [words indistinct].

[Castro] I'm sorry but you have much competition. There are other provinces who are strongly competing. Camaguey is competing strongly. Of course, I think it can occur. It would be a great pleasure for all of us. We should estimate the date after these plans are a little more developed....

[Reporter, interrupting] It depends on how we work.

[Castro] You will soon have an international airport. It will be beautiful, big, roomy, and secure. It will be a tremendous airport. The people of Matanzas will be able to travel directly and many of those who have to disembark in Havana will no longer have to do so. They have a port. They have an airport. Products for tourism will pass through here. They won't have to go to Havana. They'll land here. We'll have a.... [changes thought] What do you call the section building? It holds 600 people simultaneously.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] It will be able to hold 600 people.

[Reporter] Per hour.

[Castro] Per hour. That's big; isn't it.

[Reporter] It's big. When we visited that area with you....

[Castro, interrupting] The Matanzas airport will also be a source of employment. We will communicate this. The double highway will go from here to Matanzas but there will also be another highway that connects with it because the workers will certainly live in Matanzas. How far is it to Matanzas, Luis?

[Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first party secretary of Matanzas] It's 5 km on the highway you're speaking about. It exits in [word indistinct].

[Castro] Matanzas will connect directly with 5 km of road. You won't have to turn around. You won't even have to use the highway if you don't want to because the highway is [word indistinct]. The causeway that connects with the airport will also be a double highway from here to Matanzas. It will be a double highway to the airport. There will be a single highway from the airport to Matanzas. We will have good communications.

You'll have to leave something for the next time.

[Reporter] Yes, of course. Commander, well....

[Castro, interrupting] Do you think this is good news? [Words indistinct]....

[Reporter, interrupting] Yes of course. On behalf of my comrades, we would like to thank you....

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct] no just for the people of Matanzas, but for the entire country.

On Medical Progress, Objectives

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[Speech by President Fidel Castro to graduating medical students at the Karl Marx Theater on 1 September—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...the contingent or the detachment was formed. This was the first contingent. Perhaps some people thought it would be a long time before you would graduate, and in fact, time has flown. It has gone by very quickly. We meet here again with the satisfaction of being able to say that we have graduated the first contingent of the detachment. It was not an easy task. The creation of the medical sciences detachment was one of several measures that were taken in the field of health some years ago. How many measures were there? I think

we have lost count. There must have been some 40 or 50 measures, and one of them was the creation of the medical sciences detachment.

Another measure that was taken concerned the textbooks. I remember around that time, in almost all the classes, the students had to take notes because there were not enough books. The only books that were not lacking, to tell you the truth, was one on political economics.... [corrects himself] some books on political economics, and some on Marxism-Leninism. I said to myself, well, what kind of doctors are we going to have? Doctors who are experts on Marxism-Leninism? Doctors who are experts on political economics? Or doctors who actually know about medicine? This does not mean in the least that we are going to underestimate the importance of Marxism-Leninism. We consider these books essential and fundamental.

Today more than ever, today, when imperialism and capitalism try and question the successes of socialism [words indistinct]. Why do they have to give the doctors classes in political economics? I said to myself, well, what would (?people) think if in the economics school we began to teach physiology, anatomy, biochemistry, and that sort of thing?

There were a great many hours dedicated to this subject, and we asked that all of it be analyzed to change the amount of time that was invested on the subject, and to limit the classes that were related to Marxism-Leninism to the essential. We believe that all doctors should have a proper understanding of the basic philosophical and political principles of doctrine. But there were no textbooks. It was necessary to make a great effort, a great effort [word indistinct] in preparing and printing these texts. In those days there were also several commissions of professors established, which visited the best universities of different countries, where the medical field was most advanced, to then give us the task of developing a new program. It is not easy to develop a new program, and even less easy to introduce it to the classes. All of you went through the experience of adapting to the new program. I remember that when the congress discussed that theme there were some polemics. I believe it was Dionisio [not further identified] who made the mistake and called me "prof" or professor or something like that, at the youth congress.

It was decided to form the detachment on the basis of the principles of selection and capacity, as well as the vocation and moral quality of the student. And we placed high expectations on this medical science detachment. I remember when we were in the phase of tailoring the uniform—more than tailoring: I think that it was done by specialists in uniforms. But when we submitted the uniform for approval, the color, the gown, all of those things, that famous coat, I don't know what that ended in [laughs], I don't know how many of you may have received it the first year. But many conscious efforts were made to develop the uniform, so that you would have all that was necessary. About that time, work to create medical faculties in all the provinces was stepped up. That is why today we have 21 medical faculties in our country. We can say that we were not so lucky in the construction program of those faculties.

That program took too long. I have seen the difficulties when I visited some of the sites. I know that, fortunately, the one in Pinar del Rio is virtually finished, and it is a great faculty, but, well, you are already finished. I remember meeting with the students of Camaguey, where we were analyzing the construction delays at the Camaguey faculty. Or the visit to the faculty in Granma that also had some problems with delays, and not only with delays but with irrationality, since there were no athletic installations there and it would not be so difficult, with a bit of good will, to at least prepare the athletic installations of that faculty.

On one occasion I also visited a small faculty that had been completed. It was very well done, and really very pretty. I'm speaking about the one in Sancti Spiritus. That was approximately 2 years ago, but I know that those in the detachment had to study in faculties that were practically.... [corrects himself] that were under construction, and we know, well, we know about all of the inconveniences and all of the troubles. That means.... [changes thought] and I know there are millions of students at this moment throughout the country, and a significant number of them are not yet studying in finished faculties. I think that one of the last ones finished was the Salvador Allende faculty inaugurated not long ago.

Lately, the business of the medical faculties construction has been stepped up, but I have always thought, with sadness, of the fact that the first contingents of the detachment were not able to complete their studies in finished installations. Anyway, we should not feel unhappy that in our time we have not had something that, in turn, the younger generations of students are going to have. Perhaps someone may ask himself if there is going to be an excess of medical faculties in our country. I know, more or less, about every one of these faculties, and where each is located, and I know there is not going to be an excess of university faculties. We have had to study under difficult circumstances; in the future, students will be able to study under more comfortable conditions. If the number of students now is too high, the number will be lower in the future, but perhaps I will speak about that a little later on.

The truth is that you, as the vanguard of this movement, had to pass the test of life, and I believe that you have passed the test of life well. I remember when the first contingent, the one graduating now, was in its 1st year. They were the only students that had uniforms. They would distinguish themselves wherever they went. During the 1st year they were in the basic sciences. Later, when they were in the 2d year, I would become impatient for the day the detachment would finish all of the courses

in medical school. That day has arrived. The day has arrived on which we have graduated that first contingent, and we know that following you there are tens of thousands of medical students in six contingents, including the one that begins its classes today. You had to go through the whole experience, from the assemblies in the classes, to have the support and the approval of the collective of students.

Likewise, I have been thankful during these years, because everyone said there had been a jump in the quality of the medical students. That was said in the capital and everywhere else. Independently, isolated problems may have arisen in some cases, but it must be said that from the very beginning, the detachment had a great deal of prestige and that prestige grew through the years. It was their conduct, their behavior, their devotion to studying, that was.... [changes thought] It was something acknowledged by everyone.

In addition to these measures decided with regard to the detachment, there were others. I remember that in conferences with professors [changes thought] We had two meetings of professors—a meeting in the west and, later, a national meeting of professors. Some of the problems were discussed there. Why were there difficulties in some subjects, biochemistry and others? Why were the 1st-year medical students encountering such big problems? That led us to analyze the pre-university programs. It caused me to ponder the issue. It also led us to take measures regarding the pre-university programs. There were meetings of the directors of the pre-university programs to try to improve the preparation of the students that were coming to enroll in the university.

This would benefit not only the medical faculty, but all the other university faculties. Today there is a new situation. Between then and now the schools, the pre-university science programs, have been created. That was another very important step. I believe, in reference to the quality of mid-level education, that those institutions are, really, institutions of enormous, of enormous interest, of enormous importance, of enormous utility to the country. One of the subjects they study is biology. Some are inclined toward electronics, toward computers. It could be physics or chemistry, or it could be biology.

In future years many of the medical students will come from these schools of exact sciences. So in the future there will be an even better selection. Every year students who enroll in the medical schools will be better prepared. There's another innovation for next year. Enrollment will no longer be based just on one's record, but it will be based on one's record and ranking—both things. I believe that will improve even more the selection of medical students. What happened with some of the students? Young ones, some of them almost adolescents, would cheat a little after being selected for the detachment. They wouldn't worry very much about what their grades would be for the second semester of the year because it wouldn't count on their record, the semester; there was no time. The students had to be selected.

Today.... [changes thought] In the future it will not be like that. This is the last year in which they are enrolled based only on the record. From the beginning of the next [words indistinct] more than the exam, the ranking, the competition to enroll in the detachment. I believe that because of that, the preparation of those students will be even better than when the detachment of medical sciences was formed, which was a considerable step forward. I should say, of course, to ease your minds, that the students, the present students, who are the first ones to go into service for a year, the ones from last year who had their registration postponed until this year, will not have to take the exam. To state it better, the ones who will do their service this year will have the same requirements as the ones who enroll now, this year. They will not have to take the exams. In the future they will have to pass the exams first before doing their service. The ones from Order 18 will not have to do that [word indistinct] because they have to pass an exam to be able to enroll in the medical school.

There's another factor that is going to be important. From the beginning of next year, we will have to reduce the number of students that enroll in the detachment at the beginning of the year. That will be around 4,000 students. I am referring to medical studies. In these years there were more [words indistinct] between 5,000 and 6,000 students who enrolled in the detachment. There has been a tremendous mass of doctors forming. We're taking into account all of the contingents. For the year 1990 it is possible that the (?situation) will diminish. [Words indistinct] between 3,000 and 4,000 after we analyze it well and eliminate a few unknowns, we will be able to determine the date of the ones that will enroll each year for the next decade.

We should say that this graduation is the largest in the nation's history. There are 3,440 doctors. This includes the 147 from other countries. There are 147 students from 45 different countries who are graduating today. We feel a great sense of satisfaction to be able to contribute, through our universities, not only to the preparation of doctors for our own country but also for other countries. This includes 11 that are not of the detachment, because when we say 3,282 we speak of [words indistinct] but there are more who graduate now in the country. It is the largest graduation. Next year approximately 3,700 will graduate.

It's the largest commencement. Next year we will graduate approximately 3,700, and the year after that, more than 4,000. We will be graduating 4,000 doctors up to 1994, approximately. Up to the year 1994, we will be graduating around 4,000. This is a respectable figure.

With those graduating today, we have 31,000 doctors, a little more than 31,000 Cuban doctors, not counting foreigners. This is very significant, very symbolic. Why? Those of you graduating today had not even been born. When the revolution triumphed, there were 6,000 doctors in the country. Of the 6,000 doctors, 3,000 left. A large number of college professors left. It was the imperialists' policy to deprive the country of its professional cadres, its higher level cadres. It opened the doors [words indistinct] capital. There were no [word indistinct] or rural medicine. That did not exist. No family doctors—not in the slightest! Even we ourselves could not envision that then. Well, not some of these things. We did think about rural medicine then. We did think of the rural hospitals then.

That was one of the first things the revolution did. We did think about taking medical services to the whole population. It was one of the first things that the revolution did. But the present situation never crossed our minds. This was the outcome of the revolution's development and of our own struggle against imperialism, the outcome of our own struggle and effort to counter that infamous policy of the enemy, of imperialism, of leaving the country without doctors.

The challenge was taken up. It was then that the Medical Sciences School was established. I believe it marked its 25th anniversary last year. Medical Sciences was set up a few days before the October crisis. It was part of our program. Imperialism was taking doctors away but the revolution was training doctors. So, 3,000 doctors remained in Cuba. See for yourselves: 3,000. That was the basis for it all, for all the health efforts the revolution has made, which have led our country to the forefront in this field among all Third World countries. [Words indistinct] better situation [words indistinct].

We started with 3,000 doctors who remained in the country. Today we graduate more doctors than the total who stayed in the country following the triumph of the revolution. See what symbolism!

We have 31,000 doctors now—10 times more than the number we still had at the triumph of the revolution. As I said, we will graduate 1,000 more doctors in 1994 than the total left at the triumph of the revolution. I think it would be hard for any Latin American country to say that it is graduating 3,000 doctors and that those 3,000 already have a position waiting for them the next day. That is not the case in any country, in almost any country, in the world, to tell you the truth. I know that there are 20,000 unemployed doctors in Spain. That's in Spain, a developed, industrialized country. However, Spain has no family doctor program. Perhaps if Spain thinks about it, they could use many of those unemployed doctors.

[Words indistinct] one of the unknowns. One of the remaining unknowns is that we cannot be sure at this time how many doctors Cuba will be asked to provide, how much Third World demand there will be for Cuba's cooperation. I know that one country alone asked us for 500 doctors in a single group. Well, we couldn't do it. However, we have come up with estimates as regards international cooperation in the medical field. It could amount to as much as 10,000 doctors. These are our estimates but no one can be certain. It could be a little less or a little more. Anyway, our estimates are based on that figure. They are also based on the notion of having 10,000 doctors in reserve, a reserve of doctors in order to make it possible for doctors to spend a whole year studying every 7 years. That's one of the ideas in connection with all these programs to train doctors.

We know that 20,000 are going to work as family doctors. We know that around 5,000 or 6,000 doctors will be working in factories, schools, ships, aircraft. We estimate that around 30,000 doctors will work in the hospital network. So, that's the figure. We can indeed make calculations about the reserve doctors. What we can't calculate now with absolute certainty is the number of doctors that our country can provide to help Third World countries.

What we do know is that the shortage of doctors in the Third World is horrifying. It's truly terrible. There's a surplus of doctors in other places but they don't have the budget, the employment, for these doctors. This happens in both Third World countries and developed countries. However, the immense majority of Third World countries [words indistinct] we alone are not going to resolve them. Of course, we don't expect to, but we do hope to extend a cooperation proportionate to our medical resources. Of course, we know that as the country (?gives), the country receives, because the doctors on internationalist missions, just like those who go to the mountains, acquire a very valuable, very useful, experience which helps them a great deal in their medical career.

There are many diseases in the world today that do not exist in Cuba. Our doctors have no experience with them. I don't know what your exact training may be, but there might be a doctor who finds it difficult to diagnose malaria because there are not many malaria cases. It is very rare for a malaria case, and many other kinds of diseases, to occur.

They acquire experience, they learn about the world, and they come into contact with the underdevelopment and poverty of the Third World. They really acquire a very broad experience. I feel that it has helped our country a great deal that many doctors [words indistinct] internationalists. This has helped to shape the moral, revolutionary, and political quality of the medical sectors: our doctors, our health technicians, our dentists, and our nursing personnel. Therefore, it is one of the (?revolution's) principles and one of the things in which we can give cooperation. We cannot cooperate in other fields, but in the medical field we can cooperate a great deal with the Third World. We once said as much at the

United Nations—how the developing countries could cooperate with others by means of specialists and technicians. The medical field is undoubtedly the field in which we can most cooperate [words indistinct] Third World countries.

However, no one could at this time and on this date say exactly how many. Therefore, we have to come up with an approximate figure. From what I know about the Third World, I feel that thousands of doctors are going to be needed for internationalist missions. There are some from this contingent going to Zambia—80 of those graduating today. Some of them are from Santiago, others from Havana. I understand there are a few dozen from Villa Clara who are going to Zambia as family doctors. Well, it's not exactly as family doctors. It's going to be hard work. They are going to be sent to villages. There might be 2,000 or 3,000 people in a village. They might find out that they lack the same resources a family doctor here has to take care of the population.

Well, we should have more than 55,000 doctors by 1994 or (?1995). Almost 31,000 new doctors between 1989 and 1995, and that's not counting the ones here. We will have between 55,000 and 60,000 doctors. There are still jobs for all of them. However, we will no longer graduate 4,000 doctors in 1996. In 1996, the graduation figure will have to be between 2,500 and 3,000 doctors. We will then have to look into the replacement of doctors. The reality among doctors.... [changes thought]I do not know of a single retired doctor. Do you know of any retired doctor? [crowd stirs] I know of no one. They can be 85 years old and no one can argue against their experience, their knowledge. [chuckles] There are none. I don't come across retired doctors. If they retire, it's from their jobs as government officials. However, as doctors they do not retire.

So, what is the average life of a doctor? How often will a doctor need to be replaced? That is the reason why from 1990 on, the number of enrollments has to be reduced. From the moment the enrollment number is reduced, the selection will be even better. Look at the factors: The number is reduced but a large number comes from the exact sciences schools and enrolls on the strength of their records and test results. They will come to a brand new, completed school of medicine. These schools will have all the sports facilities, laboratories, etc—the things you yourselves have not had during your studies. They will be more comfortable. Now.... [changes thought] Well, there will be many more hospitals as well. Medical technology will be much more developed.

Now, well, there will also be many more hospitals, medical technology will be more developed; you will have an even better preparation. But what will we do with the faculties? Well, the faculties will be used for postgraduate work, from that great mass of doctors that we're going to have, so that when they have their sabbatical year they can study there. Additionally, those faculties will also serve to train university level nurses. This year we have already started with 250 in the day classes. We have to see how much we'll raise it for next year, because 250 still seems too modest. [Words indistinct] that started last year, 250 is a very modest figure. We have to see how much it will go up next year. At the same time that we reduce the number that enroll to study medicine, we must increase the number that enroll to study nursing.

That.... [changes thought] The day must come in which we do not have the traditional nurse. Until not long ago they would enroll from 9th grade. Three years. It was 3. Later we proposed....[changes thought] Later they were enrolling from pre-university and they would study 2 and I protested, really. I said why does it have to be 3 years [corrects himself] 2 years? They should study a bit more. To tell you the truth, comrades, at the time the detachment was formed, when we also made an analysis of the situation in the nursing schools, there were many young girls who went to school with their dolls. They even went to the hospital with their dolls, those who enrolled from the 9th grade. We said, older ones are needed, a little more mature, to enroll. Now most are enrolling from the pre-university level, but they study 3 years. In the future, that system of creating nurses should end. They should all come from the university level, and study for their bachelors degree directly.

We have to see if there are any other technical specialties [words indistinct] that are worth taking them to the university level. That means giant steps forward,an even greater preparation of our technicians and our university professionals. It is not out of the question that we also increase by 1 more year the [words indistinct] career, also. What abounds does not hurt. And the knowledge of medicine doesn't hurt either, if it abounds. I'm saying this to you who are going to begin your medical studies, [chuckles] not in the faculty, now, but outside of the faculty. I know that you're not going to complain because none of this applies to you.

If we have the physical capacity, if we have the physical capacity [repeats himself], and the number of university students decreases, we will have the luxury—because it was 6 years, we have to see, we have to see [repeats himself], if there is sufficient preparation for what medical science will be in the next 6 years. A sufficient basic preparation, which is what you have. This will not happen immediately, but it must be considered, and it doesn't have to start simultaneously in all the provinces. We can start with a few. There are some that are going to be more saturated with doctors than others. So all of this capacity, all of this volume, we are going to turn into quality. This is a matter of turning quantity into [words indistinct] with capacity for so many students—well, one day, apart from what I explained before, it could be 1 year more of study. That has not been discarded but it isn't something immediate. It is among the answers that we have been trying to give to the question of the utilization of all of those colossal capacities to train doctors that we have created in these years.

As I was saying, you begin now. You have finished university, in the university faculty, with basic preparation to do more than practice medicine—in part, to practice medicine—to (?study medicine). I have the firmest hope that you will not think you have finished with your studies in medicine. I would really feel more optimistic if you would realize that it is just the beginning for you. For some, it is beginning in a very serious manner, and with a very great responsibility because I imagine that the ones going to the mountains will be alone. There they do not have the polyclinic close by. There they do not have anyone at hand to ask, and must deal with the problems they are faced with now, now in this phase. I believe that in the future, the ones who are going to the mountains will be specialists in integral general medicine because the mountains and the countryside are the only places where, every 2 years, we change doctors.

In the city we do not change doctors. The same family doctor stays on, and when he graduates as a specialist, he will still attend to the population of the city. In the mountains, since they can't study there, they must be sent for a 2-year period. I know, by the ones who have been there, that it has been an [word indistinct] experience. I hope to have the chance to get together with the almost 140 doctors who are returning from Guantanamo, and who will soon be part of the capital. It is possible that I will meet with them to talk, to find out about everything they have learned. I promised them that meeting. I have a debt. I told them that at the end of a year I would meet with them, but I'll have to meet them at the end of 2 years, and not there but here. I've heard that they learned a great deal, but the ones who are going to be here in the cities, to practice as family doctors, have great responsibilities. When many people show up, the residents in a hospital are the ones who make the decisions. They have many people [words indistinct] and many people with whom to consult.

There is no doubt, and someday you'll remember this—after 10 or 20 years, you will compare what you know about medicine with what you knew when you had just graduated. This spirit, this will to improve oneself, must be kept now more than ever. I've seen that some have had [corrects himself] I've heard that 11 students have had a 5 during the entire year. One comrade got 5.2. I said, how can this be? What kind of mathematics is this? It must be a new type of mathematics. I asked the comrade how he happened to get a 5.2. He said, he got a 5 for the whole year, and then there was a competition, or I don't know what, and they gave him some points, so he went over 5. I thought, if I get sick I'll find one of these students with at least a 5. They could be a guarantee. They could be fortune-tellers, because really, because really [repeats himself] to keep a 5.0 average during their entire career is a true feat. It is a true feat, there's no doubt, because I know that the studies are difficult. One must study. The medical student can't be careless even a single day a year. That's clear. I know the studies have been hard, have been difficult. They've had to work, they've had to study. The faculties have had to demand more. The demands began here, you will remember, when the detachment was formed. It had to be that way. Some faculties have more experience than others. Some faculties have had more success than others, but we should always concentrate on the best ones, the more advanced ones, the ones that have more results, to see what new things we can introduce into medical education. We will not pause a single moment to think on what means, what resources, are necessary to have increasingly better teaching [word indistinct]. That is where [words indistinct] the advantage that many of our professors are young. How many professors do we have? I think it's more than 5,000. By chance [Castro addresses person sitting near him], does the number reach 6,000? There are about 6,000 professors in different categories. Somewhere there is a paper with those facts, but Teja [Julio Teja, minister of public health should know. After he sees that paper, he'll know how that attitude [laughter] [word indistinct]. [crowd murmur] [Words indistinct] of faculties, of hospitals. There are 6,005. No, six thousand and.... [addresses person next to him] What? Go see. What—6,003? Among all the [words indistinct] another fact. We have twice as many, have we? We have twice as many university professors as the number of doctors who stayed in Cuba. Another fact for those who like to collect facts. There are 6,000 professors, but they're young! With that majority, every passing year they're going to have [words indistinct].

You tell me, all those comrades that have had a 5 the whole time, when time goes by and they are all professors, they can be called "prof," like us. [laughter] Don't they [words indistinct]. [applause] They will have every right to be called "prof." Me, I consider myself an honorary "prof." [crowd cheers] Isn't it like that? When they sometimes give a degree like that in the university, isn't it called honorary?

I want to say that the quality of our education will improve. Everything is heading toward an improvement in all areas, just as planned.

Many of you will continue studying, rather than just practicing; 860 of you are going into direct residency. I remember that a few years ago we had what was called vertical internship. So, when we could, we (?did away) with vertical internship because that is too much specialization. The needs at the time forced us to put someone in their fifth or fourth year into a specialization; this was vertical internship.

However, in rotational internship, the doctor has to know about everything. He must have a broad knowledge of medicine, regardless of the specialization he chooses afterward. What good does it do us to have a surgeon who does not have a solid base in general medicine? Or what good is any specialist who does not have a solid base, even a stomatologist? [Words indistinct] something else when one is being examined, or what the cause of those problems is [words indistinct]

The need for a broad base is what we used as criterion. Doctors should have a broad base and then specialize. Eight hundred and sixty of you are going into direct residency. In the future, there will not be so many direct residencies. In the future, there will basically be direct residency for surgery specializations, so that those trained in these areas will not lose what they have learned. Those who need special manual skills will go into direct residency. The rest [words indistinct].

Today there is direct residency for pediatrics, for example, because we need [words indistinct] in pediatrics for them to teach the clinic family doctors. The family doctors study a specialty in the clinics. There, they must have good pediatrics, obstetrics, and internal medicine teachers as well as psychiatry and hygiene teachers, but most importantly they must have the first three that I mentioned. Since this is a massive and strong program, we also need a certain type of massive training for those specialties. But in the future, to train in those specialities it will be necessary to first graduate in comprehensive medicine, (?because) many family doctors in the future have the option of studying many of these specialties as a second specialty. In the future, a pediatrician will first have to be a doctor like yourselves. It may even take him 7 years. He will have to be a specialist in comprehensive medicine and then have a second specialty in pediatrics. Were some of you surprised by this? You know that this is the way it is. This is how everything is planned. Not at present; today, there are many direct specialties and they will exist until [words indistinct] of the year. I am talking about the plans for the future. [Words indistinct] surgery and those which require special manual skills, as defined. [Words indistinct] specialist in comprehensive medicine. It is one of the opportunities that we give the family doctors. Of course, [words indistinct] the family doctor with his neighbors, to become a specialist [words indistinct] The family doctor is the ideal. However, he must have other opportunities. He must not only be limited to being a family doctor. If someone in the future has the desire to become a pediatrician, it is from among the family doctors that the future residents for this specialty will (?be chosen). The family doctor will have that opportunity. This makes those who are going as family doctors happy. I know that quite often very good professionals have gone to the mountains or abroad without being asked to do so. It is only fair for them to have options open. In the meantime, they are not wasting time, because I am sure that the knowledge a family doctor obtains, wherever he is, is the same in the mountains of Guantanamo, in Baracoa, in Zambia, or any place here in Havana City. They obtain, while practicing for 3 years as family doctors, a world of knowledge that will never be a waste.

He will be a specialist with a secondary specialty, and a doctor with a very broad base in comprehensive medicine. He will have studied medicine for 6 years, spent 3 years in the specialization of comprehensive medicine and 4 years practicing the profession. By that time, he may even be a pediatrics, obstetrics, or internal medicine resident. He will reach that point with 4 years of practice and 9 years of study. [Words indistinct] from there will come specialists [words indistinct]. When I was talking about 7 years, back then, [words indistinct] who are now in elementary or secondary school who may get the 7 years. There are countries where the figure is 7 or 6 years. How long was the training prior to the revolution? It used to be 7 years, but due to other reasons. It was not to make them better doctors; rather, there were no jobs for doctors. [Words indistinct] they had little practice. The students are [words indistinct] from the beginning in the hospitals. But, what used to be the average life span—50 years, 55 years? We are now reaching an average life span of 75 years. This is approximately 15 years longer than [words indistinct] that existed prior to the triumph of the revolution. What does [words indistinct] mean. If we consider (?this) plus [words indistinct] to which I referred, that doctors never want to retire. Then, if they continue to practic until age 90, what does an additional year of training matter? We'll see what we (?do). We have to continue thinking about all of this.

However, I clearly see a promising future in this field. Training that.... [changes thought] I can truly say, without chauvinism of any kind, that I think no country in the world will have the medical personnel Cuba will have. I do not have the slightest doubt about that, as long as all these plans are carried out. There are all kinds of possibilities everywhere. Once in a while we receive an application from someone. [Word indistinct] know that there are still private doctors in Cuba. Did you know that? I found out through those papers. I knew there were still 40 or so of them. There are still 62 private doctors in Cuba. It is interesting that no law for this was created, but only moral [words indistinct] of the students. That was one of the first and best things that was done in the field of medicine at the beginning of the revolution—the giving up of private practice.

Therefore, we can see a truly brillant future. I am sure that a great number of you will be brilliant [word indistinct]. Some of you will even be brilliant doctors. But some of you cannot say [words indistinct] with regard to personal improvement. Many of those who are going to become family doctors, almost all of you, will [passage indistinct] as family doctors, specialized in comprehensive medicine, another 860 in direct residency. Those who are going to Piti Fajardo will be there for a while and then they will study. Therefore, all of you will have a specialty in the future, except for those who do not want to be specialists. However, I think that all of you want to be a specialist. All of you have proved your willingness, tenacity, perseverance. The first thing that one thinks about [passage indistinct] especially in a career such as this one, this is a young person who has perseverance, willingness, and tenacity [words indistinct] to get his diploma. I can imagine how happy and satisfied you must have been to receive the diplomas you were just given. That is the reward for perseverance.

Perhaps they were not all good students, but they all persevered and were capable of [words indistinct] to pass

the exams and graduate. That perseverance which you demonstrated will continue [words indistinct] and it is what you must make evident throughout your lives. Remember that there is a young generation coming. Remember that selection will be increasingly strict in the future. Remember that our faculties will be finished, that there will be new hospitals, that the new generation of doctors will have an increasingly better education. I hope that you will see [words indistinct] the facilities [words indistinct] they will have in 1990. Those who enroll now, those who enroll in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992—every year—will find greater possibilities in their studies. You will have the opportunities, great opportunities, and they will depend on [words indistinct] the possibility to go as far in this field as you can go. You are the doctors of the year 2000. Ten or 12 years will have passed by the time we reach the year 2000. You will be specialists, almost all of you. Science advances very rapidly.

It will be the task of the Ministry of Public Health of the socialist state to put all the knowledge that turns up daily within your reach. We can't subscribe for each and every one of you to every magazine that exists in the world, but we can make it possible for you to have access to any article, any magazine, any material, any book. In the Academy of Sciences we have just inaugurated a science and technology library. There you can ask for [word indistinct] from any country of the socialist camp and you can even ask Western countries. We conducted a test there; we did the test and I said [words indistinct] what are they using interferon, a new product, for? They asked Switzerland and the answer came back almost immediately. Interferon has been used in this, and this, and that—seven different uses. We discovered that we have used interferon here in Cuba in a manner in which they hadn't used it before. They didn't even know about it yet, but we got at least a quick response on five or six different diseases in which it had been used.

That science and technology library is not only for the doctors. I have asked the ministry to make special efforts in relation to the science and medical technology library. The ministry is also working in that direction, so that a doctor anywhere in the country can ask for information, so they have access to the information, so they have access to the magazines, so they have access to the books. We'll not only depend on our experience, the individual experience [words indistinct] a collective of tens of thousands of doctors in the country. We should also depend on the collective experience of millions of doctors in the world. The world is full of research centers and laboratories. Of course not [words indistinct] developed the old colonial metropolis' that sacked the Third World.

One must be.... [changes thought] I am in the habit of reading cables. They assemble a collection of cables and news for me [words indistinct] and I have seen that every day there's medical news. [Words indistinct] that has from 200 to 300 cables [words indistinct] or the state of vaccines or the difficulties in making a vaccine or new problems related to this or that disease, but there was news—news of all types, of new techniques, of new medications. They would systematically send me a volume of cables, to the ministry, every month. Everything was given to the center of genetic engineering and biotechnology.

Some remain with the team that works with me, and others [words indinstinct] for a collection of [word indistinct]. I don't have much time to review them but I have [words indistinct] Three or four news items appear every day in the cables [passage indistinct] This news appears quite often before [words indistinct] in books and magazines, [word indistinct] because there is a congress. There are many congresses being held in the world—pediatrics, orthopedics, and cardiology congresses—all kinds. There are also congresses for specific illnesses. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of doctors attend them. Everyone presents a paper [words indistinct]. Important news about medicine emerges from those congresses. We may need to increase the number of recipients of these cables, and we may need to send them to the science and technology library and to the Ministry [passage indistinct].

Our research centers must be up to date. As much as we may be able to create, experiment, research [words indistinct] our own country, this does not compare with the [word indistinct] of researchers and doctors in (?other) countries. This is a very important (?principle). For us to know that there is technology for any type of illness, [words indistinct]. This is how we have been introducing [passage indistinct] in the field of medicine. I think that if we want to reach a high level, and (?become) a (?leader) in medicine, we must be current, and we must be flexible and quick in the methods we use to receive information and build on it.

We must introduce new techniques in the treatment of illnesses. To cite an example, [passage indistinct] in transplants. That is very new, extremely new, and very recent. Already, our country is quickly progressing in that area. I will also cite the example of interferon [words indistinct] for the first time we heard talk about it. Between the time we heard about it and [words indistinct] a treatment which could fight cancer, or at least a certain type of cancer. From the time we heard the news to the time our country produced interferon, only a few weeks had passed. It is possible we would not find out about the existence of something, an innovation or discovery [words indistinct] if we don't adopt methods to be up to date on scientific developments. That is why [passage indistinct] that is not enough. Doctors are sometimes unpredictable, dogmatic, [words indistinct] enough, they think they know it all [passage indinstinct]. If something new is done or discovered in the country, they have the tendency to (?believe) what they see in a Parisian magazine more, [words indistinct] than what has happened in (?their) country. There are even some tendencies to underestimate, to discriminate against, the achievements of their own country. I know; I have

examples of this. [Words indistinct] a product in the country successfully, it is necessary to quickly disseminate it to all the other doctors. There could be a group of doctors in a hospital who know about it, but the rest of the doctors in other hospitals do not know about it. I think one of the important roles the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital must play [passage indistinct] the immediate dissemination to the rest of the country.

We hope that the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital will be a hospital among hospitals. There are no interns there, in the hospital. There are residents, but there's also an entire program so that doctors from Baracoa [words indistinct] from anywhere in the country, in specific subjects, can come to take courses in that hospital, to be informed on everything that has to do with their specialty. However, Ameijeiras shouldn't be the only hospital. It's true that it has excellent things. We began testing the extracorporeal litholapaxy unit there, in Ameijeiras. However, now we have just acquired one for Santiago de Cuba. It's much more modern. It doesn't have that tub it used to have. In 2 years, barely 2 and ½ years, the equipment has been revolutionized. That equipment was excellent and solved important problems. It avoided complicated surgery, traumatic surgery, destroying the stone by a very simple procedure. The machine that's 2 and ½ years old does not compare with the new one.

This past 26 July, Santiago de Cuba received an extracorporeal litholapaxy unit. Santiago de Cuba also received a computerized axial scanner from the same factory, of the same brand, but cheaper and much more modern. This in a matter of 2 or 3 years. Of course, though, the first one came here to the Ameijeiras Hospital. Soon several hospitals in the country will have.... [changes thought] Villa Clara will have its own. There are, or will be, computerized axial scanners in Santiago; that is to say, in the eastern part of the country, in the central region, and in the western part of the country. In the western part, there's more than one. The new hospitals that we plan to build to the east and west of the capital should be the same or better than Ameijeiras Hospital, and they should have the same role. Or any hospital that we build in Santiago de Cuba, like the new one that we're building. Construction will be resumed in Santiago de Cuba.

This technology, when it is tested in the capital or some hospital in the country, must be passed on to other hospitals. [Words indistinct] not to create new research institutes in the field of medicine. We have several: metrology, cardiology, cardiovascular surgery. We have.... [changes thought] There are 12 or 13. The principle that we've proposed is that all hospitals of a certain level [words indistinct] raise the level of the medical sciences. One of the things that helped a great deal, and it was one of the measures taken when the detachment was created, was to extend teaching to all the hospitals of the country. Before, to be a teaching hospital, it had to be a super hospital with I don't know how many specialties. At the time, it was the Calixto Garcia. [Words indistinct] and in those times a new measure, which was revolutionary, was introduced [words indistinct] even the municipal hospitals. They couldn't be teaching hospitals for neurosurgery but they could be for pediatrics. A hospital in Mayari or [words indistinct] in pediatrics, or they could be in obstetrics or two or three other specialties. It was taken.... [changes thought] They turned into the (?polyclinical) teaching centers of the country.

Today there are many teaching polyclinics. Today those dozens of polyclinics where the family doctors work are teaching polyclinics for training in determined specialties, those that belong to integral general medicine. In the same way, we pl[illegible] to move research away from the cloister of research c[illegible]ters and take it to all the high-level hospitals, which will make a great advance in terms of quality. That is the concept we must apply. No hospital in the country must feel inferior to another! The nation will do all that's possible so that all the hospitals have the necessary technology and resources. I'm not going to say that we're going to commit the stupidity of [words indistinct] there will be a million or a million and a half in all the municipalities. We can't do that.

We can't even say in all the hospitals because there would be things left over; it would be a squandering of resources, and our resources must be used carefully. A nuclearmagnetic resonance unit is a superior piece of equipment which is capable of detecting an ant in the brain. You can see it there by methods that are simple, don't cause any effects, and are non-traumatic. However, you can't buy one for every hospital. They are [words indistinct] pieces of equipment. They must be [words indistinct] at a given moment to have one per province, and they would be underused. One starts with the capital, then the central part of the country, the eastern part, and so on.

It wouldn't make sense to build an infant cardiovascular surgery center in every province. With this one that we have, we will have 100 beds [corrects himself] 104 beds. It started with 50; a little motel was set up for the postoperative children so that they wouldn't be in the hospital. We are going to build the intensive therapy unit at the William Soler Hospital—that's the one in the hospital itself, the cardiocenter—in another area. That way, we will free all those beds, and our infant cardiovascular surgery center will have 100 beds, or slightly more than 100 beds.

It's not only the problem.... [changes thought] Children from Latin American countries are constantly coming and asking, begging, for medical care. Sometimes a child may [word indistinct] from another country, from any country in Latin America. We receive between [words indistinct] applications, and they ask us [words indistinct] that they don't have the resources and we [words indistinct] problem. We think that in the future there

should be an infant cardiovascular surgery center [words indistinct] that already has one, but it's not for children a few months old. It's for older children. This is a very [words indistinct] specialty.

However, no hospital anywhere should feel inferior to another. I'm talking about [passage indistinct] what I call the necessity of being informed, of all the [words indistinct] that must be transmitted to the rest of the country, that knowledge and those experiences. Any time we have the resources, we'll do it, and I can assure you that medicine is a priority with the revolution. Medicine has the resources [words indistinct] with priority, over any other [words indistinct]. Examples we have, with the pediatric intensive therapy centers [words indistinct] pediatric intensive therapy wing in the country. Something else—We are now doing the same thing in the surgery centers, and we already have about 40 intensive therapy wings for adults. The same principle, taken to the surgery centers. All of that needs resources, and sufficient resources.

The (?means) are expensive. The means are expensive, and the country is not used to having those resources for medicine. We are going to take this intensive therapy to all the surgery centers in the country. There's an entire program for that, with specialized personnel, which logically saves many lives. To the maternity wards, we are taking the intensive services [words indistinct] perinatal intensive services. Millions are needed. Several millions were needed for the maternity wards in the capital of the Republic alone. It is going to be extended to the whole country. It's being done in Santiago de Cuba. That helps reduce infant mortality because, really, we who have such excellent [words indistinct] and we are not satisfied with it. Last year it was reduced to 13.3. [words indistinct] per thousand. For every thousand born [passage indistinct]. Perhaps this year we'll be able to go lower than 13.

Perhaps we'll be able to (?go lower than 13) this year, but some year we'll go lower than 10. [Passage indistinct] 30 and from 30 to 25 and from 25 to 20, but [passage indistinct]. There are countries that have a figure lower than 10. [Words indistinct] where very few children are born. [Passage indistinct] Here we have to see if there are climactic factors, if there are [words indistinct] factors. Besides [words indistinct] of infant mortality. I have thought about that. When I see mountain municipalities where they have family doctors, and the mortality rate is less than 10, I have no doubt that the country's infant mortality rate can be lower than 10.

Although we are an island, and an island generally speaking is (?humid), [passage indistinct] respiratory, asthma, for example. In all islands, [words indistinct] the rate of asthma. The humidity and head are appropriate for [words indistinct] of what could be a drier climate. All the countries [passage indistinct] lower than 10, (?with) some of the measures we are taking I think we can lower the rate [words indistinct].

Now, look here (at) [speaking to another person], if you'll do me the favor, there is a file and a small white card which had [word indistinct] to talk about the subject of infant mortality. No, no, mine. I know mine, and that of others. This one [passage indistinct] Well, look at Pinar del Rio's rate which is presently at 10.5, Sancti Spiritu at 10.6, Cienfuegos 10.7, these provinces have a lower infant mortality rate than Washington. Cienfuego's is 10.7, Holguin 11.8, and Villa Clara 8. These are the lowest. The highest presently is still in Las Tunas with a rate of 16.2 and Guantanamo has 16.7.

However, there are three (?paragraphs) here which say that the main causes of infant mortality are: 1) perinatal disease, hypoxia, trauma during labor, and other perinatal death causes. This accounts for 5.2 of the cases. See how important special perinatal care services will be. We already know about all the cases of [word indistinct]. Out of the 13 per 1,000 cases, 5.2 are perinatal. The cases of perinatal deaths can be reduced, and they will be [passage indistinct] congenital defects. You know the problems we have with [word indistinct]. It is precisely to detect congenital defects which [words indistinct] which could interrupt the pregnancy. There are some which are cardiac and some [words indistinct]. We already have equipment and procedures to detect congenital defects [words indistinct] at 3 and 4 months. We already have the equipment and doctors. There are a certain number which are already born condemned to die, and others are congenital anomalies [word indistinct] by life. However, there are other types of congenital anomalies [passage indistinct]. The national network which is being created around the center of [word indistinct] is already detecting many of those [passage indistinct] not only do they influence the mortality rate but they also influence the welfare of the family. It is a terrible tragedy for a family to have a deformed child. We know of many cases where they take them to the hospital and don't want to take them back home so that they don't have them with [words indistinct] or any type of problem. The ability of a family to have up to [passage indistinct] is tremendous. [Words indistinct] the assurance to any mother that her child [passage indistinct] a (?contribution) of good health to over 150,000 women. Now it will be between 170,000 [words indistinct] family, in these times. We are [passage indistinct] phenomenon of population. The fertile generations, [passage indistinct] the majority are women who are in the age range of [passage indistinct]. To assure a mother that her child will be born in perfect condition is in itself one of the greatest gifts. [passage indistinct]

Because of these two factors, congenital defects and perinatal disease, 8.4 for every 1,000 die. The third cause includes things like influenza and pneumonia, with 0.8. The fourth and fifth causes account for 0.6 deaths. These are diarrhea and sepsis.

I speak to you about this, about the problems, the perinatal services I was referring to in the maternity hospitals because these services should be provided early [words

indistinct] family doctor [words indistinct] the care that must be observed to prevent accidents with children. All these factors [words indistinct] infant mortality rate considerably. If it goes from 13 to 8, (?it is) still a high rate. I feel that with all these technical services in play—perinatal care, the detection of congenital malformations—as we extend the family doctor program, I have no doubt that we are going to cut the infant mortality rate to less than 10. We might get to 9 or 8 one day.

[Words indistinct] but all that our life potential can provide—the life potential of the Cuban people. All that our scientific potential and our geographical potential can provide. It is a fact that though we are a hot and humid island, we can go under 10. It is demonstrated by the results in some municipalities and in whole provinces. Look at Pinar del Rio Province with 10.5. A whole province. And this a province that has a large number of rural families. There's also Sancti Spiritus with 10.6. [passage indistinct] infant mortality rate will go below 10. I feel that the time is not far off when we will be able to announce this type of success in one of them and someday in the whole country as well.

Many of you are going to be family doctors. I believe it's around 2,088. The figures are here somewhere. I believe this figure includes the 80 who are going to Zambia. There are always some from the Piti Fajardo Hospital. They say (?they want to be) family doctors. There are some who have been with the Minfar [Ministry of the FAR] as doctors who selected this specialty. So the number will always be larger. Around 2,000 will join the workforce around the country. With them, we will have 6,000 family doctors.

When the members of this contingent [words indistinct] I recall we were involved in the experiment with the first 10 doctors. I don't even remember if we were actually conducting the experiment. In fact, I think it was a year after the detachment was organized. Well, we now have (?6,000) family doctors and 2,000 more will join the workforce each year. It could be that when we are graduating 4,000, the number will be at least 2,500 each year. [Words indistinct] by the middle of the next decade [words indistinct] the whole country will have family doctors. We have whole mountainous areas with family doctors. That's the case in Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo. I understand that Holguin will be almost complete this year with the group of family doctors going over there.

Six thousand—that's a considerable step forward. A true revolution in primary health care. Every single visitor to this country admires our health system. Every doctor coming to this country yearns for the day when the same thing can be accomplished in his country. In this area, we are ahead of all other countries in the world, with such a considerable advantage that having these medical contingents guaranteed [words indistinct] with the spirit of new doctors [words indistinct]. I estimate that by 1995 more or less, we will have the 20,000 family doctors. That's around 1995. That's not such a long way off. It's as much time as it took you [chuckles] to study medicine.

Some provinces will come first. I think Santiago de Cuba will be there shortly.

I believe that in 1992 the capital will be saturated with family doctors. This is also why we need to restrict admissions. It is not going to be a general action. We are not going to reduce admissions across the board by 10 percent. In some areas we will not have to reduce anything, and in others [words indistinct] because it is not the same situation [words indistinct]. The situation is not the same in every province.

Two thousand eighty eight doctors have to care for citizens all by themselves. I believe that with the detachment the family doctor has started to have a great reputation among the population. People ask for doctor services. They want to have a family doctor. They ask when they are going to have a family doctor. Not only this, they want the doctor to live in their community. They complain quite a bit at district meetings when the doctor does not live in their community. They are concerned about this. In the mountains—sometimes they are married and it is obvious that the couple has to see each other sometime. I do not know how many times a week, but they have to get together at least 1 or 2 days a week. It depends on how far each office is from the other.

Some residents complained that the doctor was away for a night. They are told that this is not reasonable, that it is unfair. They are asked to understand the problem. People do not want to go without a family doctor for even a night. One doctor has problems [words indistinct] has to have a reserve of doctors. This is why we were (?talking) about birth rates, etc. They are in reserve.

Efforts need to be made so that as many family doctors live in the doctor's house to avoid peoples' dissatisfactions and complaints. Family doctors have a great reputation. To the extent that we have reached—not through law—an agreement [words indistinct] for district delegate. If [words indistinct] family doctor should not be nominated and if he is nominated the family doctor should not agree to be a district delegate. If we do not take this precaution, half of the family doctors will be district delegates within the next few years because they are very popular, well respected, and loved. [passage indistinct] They can be nominated [words indistinct] they can be nominated to the Provincial Assembly. District delegates make a solemn commitment, which is unwritten but [words indistinct] it is something that is established by habit and we have already made this a habit. Up to now, we have not had any case of a doctor as a nominee unless the moral commitment has been

broken by nominating a doctor. [Words indistinct] certain limitations to the constitutional rights [words indistinct] but it is necessary in the special field of medicine and family doctors. As I said, they can be nominated to anything else but not for district delegate. Is this clear? [passage indistinct]

You are going to carry out a very important job and a very revolutionary one. At the beginning some were traumatized [words indistinct] because they had the idea that the only way to be a doctor was working in a hospital or a polyclinic. You cannot imagine how the work of polyclinics has improved because of the family doctor. You cannot imagine. I have given certain information to some foreign visitors which attracts their attention. Lawton, where the program began first with 10 doctors and later with 40, has a polyclinic for 25,000 people. I asked how many used to go to the polyclinic each day and I was told some 500 went each day. Since the polyclinic was saturated with family doctors some 100 people were going. Those were the ones who had to go because they had to have X-days taken, laboratory tests done, or had to see a specialist. The number of people who went to the polyclinic was reduced by 20 percent.

Some interesting cases came up. The family doctor was still not a specialist. When the patient had to see a specialist he later went to see the family doctor [words indistinct] the opinion of the specialist. He showed a great deal of confidence in the family doctor. Above all, there was not a single case of a citizen who went to a polyclinic before going to see the family doctor. The prestige of polyclinics has increase and—I am going to tell the truth—the polyclinic used to be the last card on the deck.

In our country [words indistinct] did not have all the confidence it should in polyclinics. People went to hospitals' emergency rooms. So [words indistinct] they saturated emergency rooms. They went through agony. Today when a citizen goes to the hospital he is usually taken by his own doctor.

His doctor and his lawyer in the hospital, who checks and sees how he's being attended. [sentence as heard]

The family doctor has pushed forward raising the quality of service rendered by the polyclinics and [words indistinct]. I can assure you that the medical institution was the most revolutionary... [corrects himself] is one of the most revolutionary measures ever taken in Cuban medical history. Some day it must also be acknowledged, that in the history of [words indistict] but you have to be ambitious to do that. You have to have a program of [words indistinct] of people who don't do anything. Even the labor centers and factories, with their excess personnel, [words indistinct] service was better [words indistinct] for its personnel to render new services to the population, and what better service than what a millionaire in the United States doesn't have. The millionaire may [words indistinct] but he doesn't live next to it. The residents of this country have, today, what a millionaire in the United States doesn't have: the doctor [words indistinct].

I (?believe) this institution is going to be studied and observed (?more and more). Our country can do it, because [words indistinct] the people [words indistinct] we still have offices that are full and other things, but we are heading towards the more rational use of human resources. We also have about 270,000 professors and teachers, and we have more than 15,000 reserve teachers. This is what allows our bachelors program to [words indistinct]. We don't close the schools for teachers. We have kept training teachers, and we're going to [words indistinct] sabbatical, too. That is one truly revolutionary, truly socialist—to my thinking—way of using human resources. I believe we can do all of this for socialism. We can have 270,000 professors and teachers. We have 18,000 [as heard] reserve teachers. One day we'll have 10,000 reserve doctors so that the others study and make themselves better. (?This is) what socialism will do. No one ever dreamed that [words indistinct] with our very eyes of what it can do. I really believe that [words indistinct] in a revolutionary process in a socialist revolution.

I believe that the fruits of that process are marvelous and impressive, and you are products of that process! We see you today with joy, satisfaction, sympathy, and admiration. It makes us happy to be able to say that we have graduated so many doctors, and good doctors, who have been in contact with hospitals since they began. If we graduated as many as were left, more than were left, it is precisely because these miracles are only possible in the revolution. Imperialism thought it was crushing us, leaving us without doctors. It thought that here everyone would die without a doctor! If you do not want soup, you get three cups, goes the saying. Today we are giving imperialism a cup of 3,440 doctors graduating in only one class! [applause]

[Words indistinct] to graduate the first contingent of the Carlos J. Finlay medical detachment. Recently you've seen some episodes that were shown on television. Every time I could I saw them. Not on the hour, but they had the kindness to send me a collection, a videocassette, and in the early hours of the day I saw the series on Finlay's life. I remembered just now, when I was talking about imperialism, because with that historical figure a great injustice was committed, the injustice of taking away the merit, the glory, of having made a great contribution to humanity and to science. It was ripped away from him in a shameless way. I believe that history has vindicated Finlay. I believe those historical episodes, in my judgment—I'm not an expert in that subject—were very well done.

They have helped our people to understand Finlay better. We asked the Institutes of Culture to publish Finlay's biography. A few thousand were published. I

don't know how many of you may have received Finlay's biography, how many of you have it. No one is saying anything. Those of you who have Finlay's biography raise your hands. [crowd murmurs] The one that was published about Finlay's life. Teja [Julio Teja, minister of public health], what happened to prevent these people of the first contingent from getting one? Why is this? Could it be that they received it and haven't read it? [crowd answers in unison: "No!"] Or could it be that they don't remember?

What we wanted, Teja, the idea behind sending those biographies to be published, was for every one of the students of the contingent to have a copy of Finlay's biography. What happened? Didn't they print enough? Did they run out of paper? Did they sell them at the corner market? What happened with Finlay's biographies? [laughter, applause]

Look, Teja, I'll tell you the truth. I think the book should be a gift from the ministry to every member of the detachment who graduates. We're not going to sell it to them. The textbooks, yes. We had to make an interpretation of the Constitution to do it, but it's so they could keep them. I believe a book is something very personal in which one takes notes, like me with these papers I have here. For the students to be able to keep the book, we had to sell it to them. We have to look into this thing about the biographies. It's a very nice story of a man of very great perseverance and tenacity. So that you can have it. I believe (?it is) a historical vindication that these 3,000 or 4,000... [corrects himself] 3,282 students that are graduating; 3,282 of them are from the Carlos J. Finlay detachment. It's very important.

We must think about something more important, such as how the future graduations are projected, as they are projected. In the year 2000—and the year 2000 is just around the corner; don't think it's too far away—in the year 2000 two out of every three doctors will come from the Carlos J. Finlay detachment. Out of every three, two. And that in a very few years. You should always honor that very worthy name which the detachment bears. The prestige which medicine has attained in our country, you should honor, always. The prestige which you have attained in these years, you should always preserve. We expect that from you.

To conclude—perhaps I have gone on too much on a day in which you want to go and celebrate the degree which you have received, or go to work—I want to tell you that we have infinite hopes placed in you. From the very bottom of our hearts, in the name of all of us here on this tribune, we congratulate you. We wish you great success in your careers and hope that you reach high peaks. Fatherland or death, we shall win. [applause]

Batista Santana on Havana Defense Readiness

FL2709201788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Report on interview with Division General Sixto Batista Santana, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat and chief of the Military Department of the Central Committee, with host Daniel Torres and reporter Josefa Bussi, from the "Exclusivo" program]

[Excerpts] [Torres] [Passage omitted] I have here reporter Josefa Bussi who yesterday interviewed Division General Sixto Batista Santana. [passage omitted]

[Bussi] [Passage omitted] Yesterday I had the privilege of touring various municipalities in the capital with the commission headed by Division Gen Sixto Batista Santana, member of the PCC Central Committee's Secretariat and the chief of its Military Department, along with Jorge Lezcano, who is president of the Havana City Defense Council, and other PCC officials, in honor of Defense Day, which was really a great event.

I want to tell you, Daniel, that yesterday's visit, well, I was a bit pessimistic. I thought that the people of Havana had gone a bit far in saying that they were really in a condition to declare themselves ready for defense. However, after having been on this tour, after having seen some of the installations, a rally in Alamar yesterday, the pioneers, everything—well, there were more than 4,000 people in that small stadium in Alamar—I was really convinced that the City of Havana is in excellent condition to declare itself ready for defense, first stage.

The National Commission began a visit today to tell the people of the capital—perhaps give them some guidance—where their problems may be, what they have to improve, and what they do not have to improve so they can be ready for the National Commission in October, so that when the commission makes a big and thorough inspection, they will know where their problems are so that they can correct them. [passage omitted]

I took the opportunity of "Exclusivo" being mentioned to ask Comrade Batista Santana how he viewed the events of Defense Day and tell me some things about the visit that began this morning. [passage omitted]

[Torres] Let's listen.

[Begin recording] [Bussi] What is your impression on this Defense Sunday, which the people of the capital believe is the largest?

[Batista] The first thing I think is that the City of Havana has made a great effort in the material study base, above all in the biggest material study base. I think that this material study base is going to ensure a good preparation as of now. This does not mean that the people and the militias are ready. Now is when their preparation begins because they have the means. I can say that, presently,

Havana City is not the one with most problems in the material study base. It is one of the provinces that is among the best. Keep in mind that Havana has some very difficult municipalities—Plaza de la Revolucion, Centro Habana, Habana Vieja—which are looking for solutions, but it is not easy because we cannot make a major material study base that can guarantee the preparation of the people of Havana. They are doing the minimum... [changes thought] There are mobile means to be used in the streets and the people should receive a minimum of preparation.

It is very important to observe the spirit shown by the party officials in the province, the municipalities, the provincial government, the municipalities [repeats himself], the mass organizations. A new spirit can be seen in the people of Havana, who must still make a serious effort to better organize and prepare themselves.

Well, we are going to make a working visit now. Let's see what condition Havana is in. I believe that conditions are right for Havana, if it makes a serious effort from here to the end of October, to be able to achieve this readiness, but they must work very hard.

[Bussi] How do you see conditions in these installations that have been inaugurated?

[Batista] If I remember correctly, they have a battery of eight shooting ranges. [addresses someone next to him] Right? Eight shooting ranges. This is what guarantees that people can be prepared. Before, they had to go 40 km to (El Salado). It was a waste of time. Now, they have the shooting ranges here, which will guarantee that people will come here and shoot. They must be taken advantage of, and not only on Defense Day. It could be on a Saturday when you do not work and you can bring a company, a battalion to shoot. The production and defense brigades should, fundamentally, shoot with a smaller caliber. Many small-caliber shooting ranges are being set up in Havana City in basements, which are very good during the day if you turn on the lights and if it is night turn off the lights and you can shoot. A very good series of conditions have been created there. You have to work—this is hard, control is not easy, and we are going to work seriously and hard on control.

[Bussi] Is your visit to some municipalities tomorrow one of control and assistance?

[Batista] Tomorrow is a working visit.

[Bussi] It is not a visit of control and assistance.

[Batista] No control and assistance; it is a working visit. In a visit of control and assistance you have to give qualifications; this one does not give qualifications. This one will measure the progress made by the city to determine if the city has conditions to be declared as ready. The visit will start tomorrow in the municipalities...

[Bussi, interrupting] How many municipalities will you visit?

[Batista] All 15 municipalities will be visited during the week, all the municipalities.

[Bussi] That is to say that they should start getting ready.

[Batista] We will visit two or three areas in each municipality, we will see the study material, we will see the plans for the economy, we will see everything. There will be approximately 127 comrades participating and some municipalities will work 2 days. We will control shooting; we will do a survey.

[Bussi] Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cienfuegos Meets Ortega, Ends Nicaraguan Tour

FL2709160088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, accompanied by other members of the national Sandinist Directorate, has participated in a farewell dinner for the Cuban delegation headed by Osmani Cienfuegos. The Cuban delegation ended an intensive work schedule in Nicaragua that included visits to sugar mills, industries of various types, and cattle farms, and a tour of the Atlantic coast. In all of those places, the cooperative efforts of Cuban and Nicaraguan technicians and professionals, who were moved by the visit, were considered very satisfactory by both sides. As their last official activity before returning to Cuba, Osmani Cienfuegos and his delegation held fraternal talks with President Ortega and other Nicaraguan officials.

Angolan Attorney General Meets With Counterpart

FL2809014588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] An Angolan delegation headed by Dr Antero Abreu, attorney general of the brother African country, visited the Cuban Attorney General's Office. Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, his Cuban counterpart, welcomed him.

During the meeting, which took place in a fraternal atmosphere, our country's attorney general explained to members of the Angolan delegation aspects related to the functioning of the Cuban penal system and the current Penal Code. He also referred to the control of the socialist law, the role of the prosecutor in the preparatory phase up to the oral trial, and the prosecutor's control in the field of services and the economy.

The delegation headed by Dr Abreu will remain in our country several days and will complete an agenda of work which will include meetings with other leaders of the sector.

Haiti

Hinche Commander Removed; Flees to Capital

FL2709212388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Back to Hinche, with our correspondent Jacques Clerveau, who will give us details on the removal of Colonel Serge David as district commander.

[Clerveau] Serge David fled at around noon. He headed for Cap Haitien with the Army General Headquarters in Port-au-Prince as his final destination.

Everyone is saying that the military in Hinche were faking, to save face, when they said they were in solidarity with their commanding officer, that they had no problems whatsoever with him, and that he should remain in place. According to the troops themselves, they removed him because he is a macoute, a crooked wheeler dealer, an assassin, and a specialist in theft. They asked the Army General Headquarters to throw him out of the Haitian Army.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified speaker] We sent him away because he is a murderer. He is a pillager. He is a bloodsucking bug sucking us dry. Quite often most of the soldiers can't see these things because he is a specialist in theft. We sent him away for two reasons: First, because he is a murderer, and second, because he is corrupting us with macoute ideas. He has been giving us a number of bad, macoute orders. Those orders were not to our advantage and that is why we had to send him away.

[Reporter] There were rumors that you would have effected a proper cleanup here the other day, but that he had sort of [words indistinct] you, that it was he who had stopped a couple of things from being done. What do you have to say about that?

[Speaker] [Passage omitted] Well, that is precisely why we had to send him away. It was in the same spirit that he was always corrupting us. He was (?putting one over on us), but now we have seen that and do not accept it anymore. We sent him away so that everything can function with order and discipline. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The soldiers say that the cleanup is going to continue, but in an orderly manner, without destructiveness. The people unliked by the population will have to resign from government offices. According to the military, there are going to be many arrests. Magistrate Joseph Hector was arrested this morning, but he was sent him home shortly after the colonel's departure.

This is Jacques Clerveau for Radio Soleil from Hinche.

PUCH's Theodore Supports Soldiers' Movement

FL2709181288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Rene Theodore, secretary general of PUCH, [Unified Party of Haitian Communists] has set forth his position on the current situation. He says he is in agreement with the soldiers' movement of 17 September which brought Lieutenant General Prosper Avril to power. Theodore also thinks that the administration must be weeded out, and cleaned up before organizing elections in Haiti. According to Theodore, these elections must be unfettered, clean, and democratic.

[Begin recordii g] [Theodore, speaking in Creole] If they remain consistent, and if they associate themselves with the people's movement, they will indeed be able to take Haiti a step further along the path of progress, along the path to true freedom, because one of the things missing since 7 February 1986 was, precisely, a cleanup in the Army.

The Army remained as a force, a screen to protect criminal macoutes. As soon as the macoutes resumed their old positions, this Army—especially certain officers—was there to protect the macoutes and help them commit massacres in Haiti.

That is why there is such a great liking for the enlisted men's movement among the Haitian people. Everyone is cheering them. We of the PUCH have said several times how much we ourselves liked them and how willing we are to fraternize with them, to make our own contribution to their movement—and to all other forces that truly desire progress—so that we can make the country truly advance along the road of democracy and progress.

[Reporter] Mr Theodore, there are two or three political leaders who, among other things, have asked the provisional government, the military government, to hold elections in 6 months or a year. How do you feel about these demands?

[Theodore] I myself think that after 2 ½ years of political experiences in Haiti—during which this business of time constraints within which to achieve the democratization of the country, to lay the foundations which are to permit unfettered, honest elections in Haiti, has shown that the real struggle should have been waged—a struggle to lay the foundations for democracy—has not really been waged. It was unable to (?get underway) because you had before you a number of political organizations that were interested in elections—such as those asking for elections right away, in 3 months, or 6 months or a year, and so forth. This means that these people, who instead of behaving like (?statesmen), are behaving like social climbers. They want to establish themselves. They want to succeed. They want to be president. They want to be the boss.

I myself think that if your head is on straight, and if you truly want to behave like a patriot who wants Haiti to make progress, instead of rushing to lay out an exact, precise, calendar for elections right away, you would have to say that institutions really do have to be cleaned up before there can be true democracy in Haiti.

The courts must be able to play their proper role fully. We must be able to do away with corruption in the public administration. Reparations for all the abuses committed in Haiti under Duvalier, the National Government Council, and the Namphy Government must be made.

Therefore I think that if we say this, and if we identify the problems, and if all the sectors that want the country to make progress put their heads together and reach a political consensus—together with the people who managed to effect this coup d'etat, which is so in keeping with the overall feelings of the Haitian people—I think that we can then, together, manage to establish a truly democratic climate in Haiti, a climate of progress, a climate of trust which will ensure that the elections do not turn into manipulated elections, amateurish elections, a 1.2-million voter election, but that they will instead be elections in which conscious choices are made, elections based on free choice, elections for a modern nation. [end recording]

That was the opinion of PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore on the current situation in Haiti.

on Mayorial Appointment

FL2809024488 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Lawyer (Djacaman Charles), head of the Public Prosecutor's Department, appointed by the new Haitian military authorities was sworn at the Law Courts in yesterday. Mr Charles, who was formerly the deputy representative of the department, replaced Mrs Mireille Pluviose Zamor, who had been head of the department for a long time. [passage omitted]

The ceremony that was to be held yesterday morning at the Law Courts to swear in Mrs Carmen Christophe as mayor of Port-au-Prince was postponed until today due to the absence of a Public Prosecutor Department director. Nevertheless, the new mayor, appointed by presidential decree on Friday evening, visited City Hall to meet the employees.

Upon arrival at City Hall, Mrs Carmen Christophe, accompanied by several armed soldiers, was greeted by a few curious bystanders and employees assembled around and inside City Hall. We noticed the presence of industrialist Fritz Mews, president and director general of Hasco [Haytian-American Sugar Company] at this ceremony. [passage omitted]

Mr Rene Theodore, secretary general of the PUCH [Unified Party of Haitian Communists] gives his opinion on the appointment of Mrs Carmen Christophe as mayor of Port-au-Prince.

[Begin Theodore recording in progress, speaking in Creole] ...(?something) which, as we said, makes us sick, just as it makes a lot of people in Port-au-Prince sick. We say it is a pity that they made such a choice. It is a shame, because to put someone like Carmen Christophe in the City Hall of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, means that we have made a choice in favor of immorality instead of choosing in favor of a moral society. We have made a choice in favor of incompetence instead of choosing to redress a situation through competency that does exist and is available in Haiti.

I also think that this is not an irreparable choice. It is a choice which I certainly hope is temporary—very temporary—and we think that already, the fact that among the Haitian people, there are many voices among all sectors of society being raised in protest of this choice, of this appointment, the government, which claims to be here to reach consensus, which claims to be here to implement the will of the people and the progress of society, will think long and hard about the choice of Carmen Christophe, so that as soon as possible.... [sentence left unfinished] [end recording] [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Commander: U.S. Advisers Not Involved in Attack

PA2809032988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0223 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Colonel Ciro Lopez, commander of the "El Paraiso" garrison, which was attacked by the guerrillas on 13 September, denied today that three U.S. military advisers had participated in the clash with the rebels, contrary to what the U.S. media and President have stated.

Lopez said the "three advisers did not shoot, because they were not armed and were in a pillbox with a view of the inside part of the garrison to protect themselves from the mortar fire."

He added that the three advisers "have not participated in any fighting" because, according to him, "they were in a security area during the terrorist attack."

The information that the U.S. military advisers had directly participated in the shooting caused by the guerrilla attack was carried by THE WASHINGTON POST and corroborated by President Reagan, who affirmed that they had "fired in self-defense."

According to the report published by THE WASHINGTON POST, three U.S. military advisers responded to the rebel fire against the Salvadoran military installation in the northern part of the Central American country.

The Army sustained 9 dead and 12 wounded as a result of the FMLN guerrilla attack on the "El Paraiso" garrison.

A U.S. diplomatic source who chose to remain anonymous stated in the Salvadoran capital that "the advisers have a right to defend themselves, especially outside of San Salvador, but not to participate in combat or attack missions."

In his statements, Ronald Reagan supported the action of the military advisers and added that "I have never sent my men to face any danger without giving them the chance to defend themselves if they are attacked."

In March 1987, during another attack on the garrison, U.S. Sergeant Gregory Fronius, a military adviser, was killed.

Currently, 55 of the 119 U.S. advisers in El Salvador are military instructors.

Nicaragua

Ortega: Reagan Speech Apology for 'Terrorism'

PA2809005088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2320 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega Saavedra by unidentified reporters at the Foreign Ministry in Managua—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...to have people speaking now about President Reagan as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, because we would be talking about giving a Nobel Prize to a man who has been acting like an international criminal, since he has been categorically condemned by the International Court of Justice. [3-second break in reception] in giving this prize to a criminal like the President of the United States.

His [26 September UN] speech was an apology for international crime, for terrorism. It has confirmed the behavior he has been defending during his two presidential terms.

[Reporter] Mr President, the Social Christian Party [PSC] has announced that the PSC and Democratic Revolutionary Alliance are promoting an opposition bloc they characterize as a third option. What is the significance of this?

[Ortega] I have explained that under the current circumstances, with Nicaragua facing a terrorist U.S. Government policy, there is no third option: Either you are with the fatherland, with Nicaragua, and you defend your nationality and the dignity of Nicaragua from a foreign intervention, represented by the Yankee government, or you are with the foreign aggression. There is no third option.

[Reporter] Is this the message Nicaragua will take to the United Nations?

[Ortega] Nicaragua is in favor of peace. This is the message we have been reiterating at all international forums. At this moment in particular, we are very interested in strengthening international juridical mechanisms because these are the tools that all states, especially the developing countries, have to defend themselves. Nicaragua will insist on this, taking into consideration the fact that the Nonaligned Movement, at the meeting that took place in Cyprus, adopted the resolution to hold a special meeting to call for the strengthening of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice in particular.

[Reporter] Mr Budilo Baltodano, of the Nicaraguan Coordinating Board, has said that his organization is planning activities such as strikes, protests, etc.

[Ortega] All that is within the framework of the provocations being promoted and financed by the CIA.

[Reporter] What is the position of Nicaragua with regard to Eden Pastora joining the PSC and having plans to come to Nicaragua to form part of that opposition group?

[Ortega] What we know is that this gentleman is in Costa Rica and that there is a communique signed by Erick Ramirez and Eden Pastora that speaks of a third option, and I insist that there is no third option here: Either one defends Nicaragua, the revolution, and the fatherland, or one is on the side of imperialism. Thank you.

Tinoco: Reagan Admits Failure

PA2709144688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] United Nations, EFE—The speech delivered yesterday by U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the UN General Assembly was protocolary and superficial, Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has stated. He said the U.S. President admitted the failure of his policy in Central America but failed to assume the responsibility.

Central America has not been able to achieve peace because the United States has stubbornly sought to develop a mercenary war that has led nowhere, Tinoco asserted. He added that the policy was implemented by Reagan 8 years ago, and the new U.S. administration will find a region in a much more difficult situation. There is greater unrest, more weapons and revolutionary movements, and a much more critical and chaotic situation, the Nicaraguan vice foreign minister stated.

Pastora Announces Formation of Political Bloc

PA2709180188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1610 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] San Jose, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Eden Pastora, former Sandinist commander and later a rebel leader, announced in San Jose the establishment of a bloc of internal Nicaraguan political forces, which include the Socialist Christians, Socialists, and the Independent Liberals, to offer a "third nationalist option" to his country.

Pastora, known as "Commander Cero" during his years of fighting the General Anastasio Somoza regime, today disclosed to ACAN-EFE that he and Erick Ramirez, president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, signed an agreement on Sunday in San Jose to seek unity within the Nicaraguan opposition.

The pact signed by Pastora and Ramirez states: "We have agreed on the need to establish a broad bloc comprising the political opposition which, without falling into the polarization of the extreme left wing or right wing, will represent a third nationalist option to solve Nicaragua's grave political, economic, moral, and social crisis." In May 1986, Pastora abandoned 3 years of armed struggle against his former Sandinist comrades—who now head the Nicaraguan Government—and sought asylum in Costa Rica.

Pastora and Ramirez are undertaking negotiations with Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), the second biggest opposition force in Nicaragua; Mauricio Diaz of the Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC); Socialist and Communist leaders; and with Moises Hassan, another former Sandinist leader. [passage omitted]

The former rebel leader acknowledged the possibility that some FSLN and Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) forces could join the bloc, but he ruled out an agreement with the contras, which, according to him, "are dead." Pastora said: "We are not interested in the RN, which is a finished plan and whose time has passed. That would be against the will of the Nicaraguan people."

Asked about the support that the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE)—an organization he fought for and with which he plans to return to Nicaragua—may receive, Pastora said: "It is backed by the force of reason and truth, and it is supported by many internal and external sectors" that dislike the Sandinist present and the Somozist past, which is represented by the RN.

Pastora said that this is the first agreement between internal and external Nicaraguan forces to provide a nationalist plan, and he announced that he continues to consider returning to his country, perhaps in December.

The former rebel leader had announced in March that he would return to Nicaragua on 22 August, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the takeover of the National Palace. He later postponed his return until 15 September, to coincide with the 167th anniversary of Central American independence. However, he still remains in Costa Rica. "We will return to Nicaragua when there is a cease-fire and general amnesty," Pastora said.

Nunez Comments on Results of IPU Meeting

PA2709201488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Interview with National Assembly President Carlos Nunez by reporter Edgar Barberena in Managua on 26 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Barberena] The IPU has turned down a request by Felix Pedro Espinoza, former Democratic Conservative Party deputy who has been living in exile in Venezuela since last year. The decision was approved during the IPU's 80th session, held in Bulgaria 19-24 September. The international forum suggested that Espinoza accept the government's amnesty and face Nicaraguan justice.

The information was revealed on 26 September by National Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez, who returned to Managua after attending the IPU meeting.

[Nunez] The Nicaraguan delegation to the 80th IPU conference went to Bulgaria. One of our goals—we had been working on this for several months—was to become members of the IPU Executive Committee, which is composed of 2 women and 10 men. I believe we have achieved our goal.

The membership represents a great responsibility, but it is a vote of confidence for the revolution and an honor for Nicaragua. It will represent more work for me, but I believe this is the type of effort we should exert.

I must add that our election as Executive Committee member is not simply the result of the National Assembly's work, but also of our international organizations. In this case, it involved the work of the Foreign Ministry, our diplomatic corps abroad, and the FSLN's International Relations Department—which has been working hard for 4 months. We asked several governments and parliaments to support Nicaragua's candidacy to the IPU's Executive Committee.

Furthermore, the comrades composing our delegation—Ray Hooker, Rafael Solis, and Dr Guido—participated in the conference and discussed all the topics.

[Barberena] Commander, did the U.S. delegation to the conference resort to any maneuvers during the elections to fill the Executive Committee's vacancies?

[Nunez] No, we had no problems with the U.S. delegation this time In fact, we decided to bid farewell to Senator [title as heard] Pepper, who is the dean of the IPU delegates. However, we did have some serious differences and strong arguments within the Latin American group.

Brazil presented its candidacy to the IPU's Executive Committee 5 days before the elections. Fortunately, we managed to convince its representatives they had no chance, because we practically had the support of all IPU members. We said we should work together and present a united Latin American group. The Brazilian delegation realized this and and withdrew the candidacy.

[Barberena] Commander, referring to the Nicaraguan delegation's bilateral contacts with other parliamentary representatives, were there any questions about Nicaragua's elections?

[Nunez] No, on this occasion we mainly exchanged views with the other delegations on the conference's topics. We did our job and sought the other delegations' support. That was the basic thing.

Furthermore, several resolutions were issued, but the main one referred to the Middle East conference. A special resolution was also issued to support the Iran-Iraq talks.

Referring to bilateral talks, all the nonaligned countries supported our candidacy. They also supported Nicaragua's efforts to attain peace and end the war. [passage omitted]

Officer on Visit to Bulgaria, EPS Work

AU2709174588 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 26 Sep 88 p 3

[Interview with Major Adolfo Chamorro Teffel, first deputy chief of the Central Political Administration of the EPS, by Major Vladi Vladkov, representing NARODNA ARMIYA: "We Are Building and Defending Our New Homeland"—date and place not given]

[Text] [Vladkov] Comrade Major Teffel, over a period of several days you have had meetings with generals and officers of the Bulgarian National Army and visited military units. What are your impressions from these meetings, and what is your assessment of the standard of training of our soldiers and commanders and of the party-political work being carried out among the Bulgarian troops?

[Teffel] We had the opportunity to assess the standard of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, based on the results of the personnel's combat and political training. We witnessed the correct political approach taken during the induction of the young soldiers. We also assessed the extent to which the personnel had mastered modern combat equipment and arms as a whole, the fulfillment of the combat training programs, and, what is of most interest to us, the planning and conduct of the party-political and cultural-educational work among the soldiers.

The party-political work in the Bulgarian People's Army and the Sandinist People's Army is essentially similar regarding both ideological aspects and the end goals pursued. Accordingly, we are able to draw much from the experience of our Bulgarian friends. I may mention as an example your rich experience in working with the Army Komsomol, an experience that we can utilize widely in the EPS.

Of course, the conditions for applying this experience in Nicaragua are different from those in your country. The 9 years since the victory of the revolution have been for us 9 years of continuous aggression on the part of North American imperialism. This aggression is expressed not only in the combat actions of the counterrevolutionaries, and not only in the economic blockade of the country. A huge apparatus has been created to wage an ideological campaign against us, using a large number of radio transmitters and press organs. The opposition and the church have also been involved and have been used as tools of the aggressive North American policy. This means, in order to achieve the goals that the Sandinist National Liberation Front has set following the victory of the revolution, we must overcome exceptional difficulties and construct our new homeland under war conditions.

[Vladkov] In view of these grave conditions, what are the aims and tasks of party-political work in the EPS?

[Teffel] The foremost task of the party-political work in the Nicaraguan Armed Forces is to help to turn all soldiers into true defenders of the goals that the Sandinist revolution has set concerning Nicaragua's development. The soldiers must become guarantors of the traditions in the struggle of the people and its vanguard, the FSLN. The soldiers are called upon to preserve and develop the patriotic and revolutionary traditions inherited from the heroic road traversed by the Sandinist Army.

Within the EPS, the political instructors operate at the battalion level and above; in addition, they can call upon the support of the primary party organizations and youth committees, which are similar in form to the Bulgarian Komsomol. Because of the great difficulties that we have in utilizing technical means for propaganda and agitation, the members of the Sandinist Front and the 19 July Youth Organization are directly involved in the process of continuously providing explanations to the personnel about the real military-political situation. Through their example they emerge as a vanguard. In addition, correct human and revolutionary relationships are being established between the officers and the soldiers in the combat areas. We also attach great importance to the work among the population.

Despite the fact that a start has been made on an international level toward resolving certain regional conflicts, North American imperialism is striving by all means to obstruct the peaceful settlement of the Nicaraguan situation. We will remember this year for the end of an administration whose chief aim in Central America, throughout two terms of office, was to neutralize the revolutionary liberation movements in El Salvador and Guatemala and destroy the people's Sandinist revolution. It failed to achieve its goals. On the contrary, the Nicaraguan people and the Nicaraguan revolution succeeded in winning great international prestige and becoming a model for all of Latin America. At the end of Reagan's second term of office, we succeeded in achieving better internal and international conditions than at the start of the eighties. Our slogan at the moment is: "Reagan is going, but the revolution continues!" This is an expression of an 8-year-long war with an enormous cost to the Nicaraguan people—approximately 50,000 people have been killed, 5,000 young men permanently crippled, and almost 100,000 children orphaned, while the material damage amounts to about $12 billion. However, the revolution is stable, and the people continue to voice their support for their vanguard—the FSLN.

[Vladkov] What do you wish to tell the soldiers of the Bulgarian People's Army before you leave Bulgaria?

[Teffel] A few days ago the soldiers and commanders of the Bulgarian People's Army celebrated Army Day, on 23 September. I would like to send all of them warm greetings on behalf of the officers and soldiers of the EPS, who are defending the Sandinist revolution. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit Bulgaria—the native land of Georgi Dimitrov, and for the opportunity to assess the great achievements of the Bulgarian people, led by the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party]. Despite the vigorous actions to seek a more lasting peace worldwide, may the soldiers of the Bulgarian People's Army continue to comprehensively train themselves to be worthy defenders of the aims and ideals of their people, because the chance of aggression will remain as long as American imperialism exists. The best way to prevent its militaristic intentions is to continuously improve combat and political training and maintain permanent combat readiness and capability.

Panama

Solis Palma Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2709160388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1416 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr President: The Government of the Republic of Panama conveys its great satisfaction over Your Excellency's being chosen to preside over the 43d UN General Assembly. Your Excellency's experience, talent, your deep knowledge of international problems, and your familiarity with the cause of peace in Central America will surely contribute toward achieving satisfactory results in the study of the complex and delicate matter that will occupy our attention. I especially recognize UN Secretary General Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, because his actions have not only yielded significant results in some of the matters that most concern us, but also have reflected the many positive activities he has carried out for peace, especially regarding the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq.

Those achievements seem to have brought the United Nations closer to the aspiration its founders dreamed of: it is becoming a system of collective security. We can draw many lessons from the considerations contained in the secretary general's report about the need to recognize the responsibility debtors and creditors share concerning the foreign debt problem and about the correlation between the arms race and inequalities in economic development.

To these considerations, we must add that figures on net capital exports—Latin American nations have been forced to export capital to service their debts—constitute a dramatic condemnation [of the present economic system] because of the imposition of terms that do not

consider these countries' real abilities or the most elementary concept of prudence. A decade of zero growth on our continent or even a reduction in the production of wealth in many areas constitutes an irrefutable and terrible indictment against the imbalances that persist in the world. There has been a greater concentration of wealth in a tiny minority of nations while the poverty and backwardness of the majority—the less-privileged nations—become more accentuated and more difficult to overcome.

If we consider the possibility that 200 million Latin Americans will live in poverty by the end of this century, there is more than sufficient cause to say the problem demands immediate action through Latin American integration, regardless of the traditional considerations.

However, in additional to the serious economic and social problems found everywhere, we are deeply concerned about the international conflicts that maintain the world in a situation of instability and anguish—particularly the perpetuation of the policy of apartheid in South America [as heard].

Despite all this, I must state that the two great powers' recent agreements on the reduction of certain nuclear weapons allow us to the hope the world is moving away from the danger of a holocaust and that vast resources will be released to solve the most critical economic and social problems. It is encouraging to see that the issue that has been a great concern and fear for several decades among vast sectors of the world has now become less threatening.

Nevertheless, the nuclear arms limitation agreements coincide with the appearance of new security issues among the world powers, which consider it necessary to emphasize even more the use of conventional weapons as the instrument to subjugate weak and small nations. This increases the importance of military installations located in strategic sites within a regional and world context.

Thus, despite current efforts to attain peace, the conditions for a new threat loom over many underdeveloped nations. This is specifically happening in Panama, because the United States has given great strategic importance to its military bases in Panamanian territory following U.S.-Soviet agreements. However, the United States must leave these bases in 12 years, as has been solemnly pledged. The U.S. Government does not want to honor the pledges made in the current Panama Canal Treaties and is trying to extend its military presence in my country beyond the established date.

Our geographic position is our most important and valuable natural resource, yet it has become the greatest danger for our sovereignty and independence. What we consider a bridge between the seas to strengthen international trade and attain our own development has become a strategic site within a world context. What we have offered for the world's benefit is wanted by others to control the world. The Panamanian people have no hegemonic plans or ambitions; we only want to be allowed to develop in the normal way the necessary resources and abilities to improve our population's material and spiritual welfare.

Another great danger looms over small nations: disinformation. The world power uses disinformation as a weapon to subjugate a small nation by unleashing its mighty forces to influence and control the systems that gather, generate, distribute, and present news and commentaries, and to establish a network to manipulate international public opinion.

Society is presently defenseless against a large-scale manipulation of the news media. This represents one of the most terrible problems of our times, particularly for underdeveloped peoples who are vulnerable to disinformation. If this vulnerability is exploited at national or regional hegemonic levels, and if the strategy includes the tactic of creating, exporting, and introducing methods of the Nazi fascists—whose defeat led to the creation of this organization—then the time has come to think about a joint effort to stop such deviations from the path mankind hopes for.

Intentional and well-planned discord has been sowed in Panamanian society through the manipulation of minds. This manipulation has been spread throughout the world by replacing the true reality with an invented reality according to the desire and plans of the current U.S. Government.

We must point out that in the past 2 years, disinformation has been working as a true ministry of propaganda in charge of portraying everywhere a monstrous image of Panama and its highest government officials. The whole campaign against FDP [Panama Defense Forces] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega is nothing more than an ominous game of lies and slanders organized and carried out by agents of the current U.S. Government; and if I say that the FDP has conducted an exemplary struggle against drug trafficking during the entire period Gen Noriega has been in charge of the FDP, some of the distinguished statesmen and officials in this room will think that I could not be referring to the same man against whom so much power has been deployed.

What is the truth? On 12 July 1988 at the U.S. Senate, DEA chief Mr John Lawn said he has never seen one piece of evidence linking Gen Noriega with drug trafficking. The U.S. Government has given world public opinion an image of Panama and its leaders that is nothing more but the product of their own minds, created by its own agents, transmitted and dispersed through the channels under its control, aiming to satisfy its heinous purposes.

The U.S. Government has lied to people all over the world—especially to the U.S. people—regarding Panama, and has led people to have a terrifying conception of Panama. Moreover, to carry out its plans, the United States has violated not only the fundamental rules and principles contained in the UN Charter, but it has also violated the most basic humanitarian considerations.

What the Panamanian nation is presently suffering deserves careful attention and serious thought of the governments of the UN member nations, because a new model of war has been launched against the Republic of Panama.

Mr President, Mssrs delegates, since the end of February 1987, the current U.S. Government has perpetrated an overwhelming number of violations of the basic rules of international law and the rules of peaceful coexistence. I categorically state that my government has more than enough reasons to fear a direct aggression by the United States against the Republic of Panama. The chiefs of state and chiefs of government of the countries with diplomatic or consular representatives accredited to my government know very well what I am talking about. Indeed, with the presidential succession on 26 February of this year, when I was sworn in as the constitutional chief of state, all the veils were torn apart and the U.S. Government plans became obvious to the world: to oust the legitimate Government of Panama and impose a de facto regime headed by figures committed to renegotiating those clauses in the Panama Canal Treaties that guarantee the Panamanian people the definitive consolidation of an independent, free, sovereign, and neutral nation at noon on 31 December 1999.

I earnestly ask you to pay close attention to the painful account, which I will now present to you, of what they [U.S. Government officials] have done to us and what they have done to my homeland and people.

Panama was a flourishing, quiet, happy, and simple country. It had a satisfactory growth rate. Dialogue had always been the way to solve our local and international problems. Suddenly we had to face discord treacherously sown in the core of Panamanian society and a strategy of subjugation imposed on our country under the pretext that Panama did not have a democratic system of government.

We realized a long time ago that the only way to give true meaning to the word democracy is to have a society in which the masses have a strong voice and in which there is a fair distribution of wealth and opportunity. In that way, all sectors can participate in political decisions and have access to the benefits resulting from growth.

Aware of the weak nature of institutions that emulate other societies or that are imposed by other societies, we have permanently protected the basic foundations of democracy. We attacked the roots of social injustice and economic obstacles, because they limit the people's equality and freedom and harm human dignity. Our idea of democracy naturally awoke negative reactions in those who saw their unfair privileges—accumulated during supposedly democratic administrations—threatened. Our idea of democracy also caused negative reactions in those who believed that we were progressing too slowly, because they were worried that a solution to their problems could not wait any longer.

We understand and accept those reactions. They result from internal problems. However, we cannot tolerate a foreign world power using disinformation and psychological manipulation to infiltrate those sectors and lead them to act against our nation's interests. Democracy is forged by virtue of a constant and common effort between the government and the people. True economic and social justice must be established, because this leads to the government's development. Each nation has a right to choose its own system. No country can assume the responsibility of interfering in another country in order to impose an institutional system and consequently to attack that country's right to self-determination.

Our sovereign rights were violated when the U.S. Government froze $54 million belonging to the National Bank of Panama and the Panamanian people. With that measure, the U.S. Government increased its fierce campaign to sow distrust with regard to the Panamanian banking system. That was in fact an action included in a plan devised a long time ago. That plan sought to destroy the Panamanian banking center, a goal that, irrespective of the destabilizing campaign, the U.S. Government had been trying to achieve for many years. That arbitrary action was taken to extremes. Justice was denied to the National Bank of Panama. Our national bank has been unable to resort to the U.S. courts or even to get information concerning the fate of the frozen funds.

It is also completely inconceivable that the U.S. Government ordered the retention of the payments it promised in the canal treaties to make to our country. Moreover, it is inconceivable that it ordered the retention of tax payments—payments that are mandated by law—that U.S. companies and individuals in Panama must make.

It is completely inconceivable that pursuant to an executive order issued by the U.S. President on 8 April 1988, the U.S. Department of State authorized private citizens to make use of Panama's public and private funds with absolute impunity and without any legal control. Those funds were arbitrarily withheld and deposited at a U.S. Federal Reserve bank. In that executive order, the reason given to invoke the War Powers Act is the absurd allegation that my government constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic interests. A country such as Panama cannot pose a threat to the United States in any way. Our legitimate use of our independence, sovereignty, and self-determination cannot be a threat to any people in the world.

However, when the United States resorts to arbitrary actions in its relations with another nation, that does have very serious consequences. World leadership in the political arena carries with it major responsibilities for the implementation and formulation of policies. The United States has declared an economic war on the Republic of Panama. In this struggle, the impact cannot be tallied in terms of the loss of human lives and material destruction, but by the serious political, social, economic, and moral damage affecting the entire nation of Panama.

In 1988, the gross national product will drop by more than 20 percent. This represents over $2 billion. In a country with 2 million people, that sudden impoverishment makes the task of reinforcing democratic institutions more painful and difficult. Why should Panama not protest in the most vehement terms, considering that its economy, unemployment, and the means of production and exploitation of its resources are being destroyed; considering that the supply of food and medicine to its people has been seriously affected; considering that its financial negotiations are sabotaged; and considering that Panama's public funds, which have been withheld [by the United States], fall prey to an act of piracy without precedent in history? Most of all, why should Panama not protest, considering that each day may bring a military attack from the U.S. bases located in our own territory?

Mr President, Messrs delegates, allow me to continue by telling you why the Panamanian people have a growing fear of a direct U.S. military intervention. We see a visible, tangible, and permanent threat, as is evident in the incidents I have already mentioned and the others that I will summarize now. The international community must know of these incidents. The 1977 Panama Canal Treaties only authorize the U.S. military presence in our country for the purpose of defending and protecting the interoceanic waterway.

However, this presence has now become a pawn in a hegemonic power play, particularly since 1986, when the nature and purpose of that military presence underwent a basic restructuring. Indeed, with the creation of the U.S. Army South, the reorganization of the Southern Command hierarchy, and with a considerable increase in the number of troops and the amount of war materiel, the U.S. military bases were transformed into a structure designed to be able to plan and implement armed attacks against other countries.

Early this year, the U.S. Armed Forces' presence in Panama surpassed by several thousand the number allowed in the Panama Canal Treaties. Between 27 February and early March 1988, the following arrived in Panama: U.S. commandos specialized in surprise attacks, an elite battalion of the 82d Airborne Division, groups of experts in electronic warfare, more than 300 attack and transportation helicopters, and a detachment specialized in the control and occupation of urban centers. An additional 1,300 U.S. soldiers, 800 Marines, combat helicopters, and offensive military equipment—which was never part of the equipment used by the United States for the Panama Canal's defense—arrived later on.

U.S. combat planes have taken over Panamanian airspace. They frequently carry out threatening maneuvers against FDP installations and against international commercial flights enroute to various countries. The continuous arrival of reinforcement and replacement troops and more weapons—which have an overwhelming capacity for destruction—has yet to stop. Furthermore, a steady succession of maneuvers and war exercises are carried out every day, with no other goal but to exhibit a powerful nation's readiness and ability to attack.

Mr President, Messrs delegates, I again wish to refer to the secretary general's report. I want to reassert the Republic of Panama's traditional position within the United Nations and, as a member of the Nonaligned Movement, concerning the problems mentioned in the valuable report presented by Dr Perez de Cuellar. We share the secretary general's concern about Central America and insist, as Panama has done within the Contadora and Support Groups, on the need to stop foreign pressures and injustice. The Central American republics should be allowed to continue with the plans outlined in the Esquipulas II agreements.

Furthermore, Dr Perez de Cuellar's report refers to a problem vitally important to my country and people: the latest violations of international laws. The secretary general says if the United States, or nations in general, fail to fulfill legally signed treaties still in effect, the overall structure of international laws would collapse—not to mention the bases of any organized international community. His words are a warning with somber connotations.

My country is currently suffering because the United States wants to abrogate substantial pledges assumed in the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties. I want to add some considerations, because the violation of international treaties implies a great crisis prevails in the moral framework for coexistence among nations. When force replaces the mandate of the law, the doors to all kinds of outrages are opened. The United States maintains a diplomatic mission in our country without recognizing my government, and that mission continues to be involved in destabilizing activities; we cannot make it leave our country, because we are sure that it would use that as a pretext to use force against us.

That is a new form of abuse of power. It is a daily aggression and an attack on the nation's dignity and leaders. It is also an action disrespectful of people's rights.

Panama is not the only vulnerable nation. Many other nations run the same risk we are running; they are facing the same threat. That threat can only be avoided if we unite further, because the sole protection of the weak countries is found in the common defense of the principles the United States is violating.

Is it not a threat for all the small countries of the world: the United States' assuming the right to decide on the legitimacy of a government and delivering the funds of a sovereign state to private individuals and allowing them to use those funds as they please?

Full and resolute exercise of solidarity and the implementation of specific steps toward prompt unity will guarantee that Panama will not be the last link in a chain of similar cases.

The Nonaligned Movement—a current political alliance—is a sensitive, moral force for the international community. It is an undeniable political force that now has the responsibility of becoming an economic force to create greater solidarity among small and weak countries. That would be the best way to avoid situations such as the one my country is currently experiencing.

Latin America is bearing too onerous a burden dealing with its social, economic, and cultural development. Latin America has larger human masses plunged into hopelessness. Therefore, sowing discord in societies on behalf of democracy, justice, and freedom can lead to results very opposed to those ideals.

John Quincy Adams, one of the most distinguished U.S. heroes, warned 167 years ago about the danger of his government's transcending its borders to seek monsters that could destroy it. He warned that the consequences of that action would cover the shine of his government's libertarian ideals with a dismal luster.

Freedom lovers in Panama and throughout the world are surprised and angry to see the U.S. Government resorting to the creation of monsters because of its desire for continental domination.

For the the Latin American countries with weak economies, the U.S. Government's using its economic and military might to asphyxiate Panama and force it to surrender is a fatal precedent.

That U.S. policy could become a heavy obstacle for continental development and the regular investment of U.S. capital. Foreign investment, especially in Latin America, would be studied with caution, suspicion, and fear, because Latin America has been abruptly forced to regard foreign investment as a potential instrument of imperialist plans.

The order and prohibitions imposed by the current U.S. Government on U.S. businesses in Panama mark U.S. investments abroad as weapons of aggression.

There are many countries that, like Panama, need massive capital investments for their development processes. They have changed their policies, modernized methods, invested precious efforts and resources to train qualified personnel, and adapted laws and signed agreements to make the participation of foreign capital in the strengthening of their economies more attractive. However, those countries must inevitably feel grave apprehension when they see that Panama, with an economy closely linked to U.S. investments, suddenly finds the U.S. Government using the relative dependence that results from those links, and if they see the U.S. Government subsequently uses this dependence as a weapon to strangle the Panamanian economy, force its government to yield, and subjugate its people. In the world economy, a formula that translates into more dollars for less dignity can only cause fear.

Panama has strictly fulfilled its international function as a center of interoceanic communications to the benefit of mankind. It will continue to fulfill that historical destiny with absolute self-denial, regardless of the difficulties it faces and all the obstacles that might intentionally be created to prevent it from doing so. That is why Panama demands that its dignity as an independent nation be respected and that the clauses of the treaties that regulate the functioning and maintenance of the interoceanic waterway be fulfilled to achieve total control over the canal at the end of this century and to make effective the canal's strict neutrality.

Because the United Nations exists primarily for mankind's desire for peace, I am dutybound to resort to all the dissuasive moral power of its members as means of protection for a nation facing aggression and threats. My government wants peace and will seek peace and agreement to resolve all its international controversies. I go on record at this assembly in stating that Panama has been able to withstand the aggression and maintain its dignity because of the Panamanian people's awareness of being a a sovereign nation, something that has been intensified from generation to generation. Our determination will not be crushed no matter how unequal the conditions of the struggle we have before us.

Widening the differences and worsening the aggression against Panama cannot but result in moving our peoples further apart and in dangerously threatening the peace and security of that region of the world. On the contrary, shaking hands and understanding ourselves will bring great mutual benefits and be for the good of all the community of nations; something that is desired by mankind. Thank you very much.

Speech to L.A. UN Group

PA2709225988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2034 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to a group of Latin American and Caribbean representatives at the United Nations in New York City on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] Mr President, representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries: Like Mexican Ambassador Mario Moya Palencia, I want to express my great

satisfaction that Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez is chairing this meeting. Diego Cordovez is a most eminent Latin American to whom we owe much. He has constantly struggled for Latin America and the Caribbean and mankind in general. We acknowledge this and we also acknowledge his efforts in favor of peace. His work for Afghanistan and his many other efforts deserve our acknowledgement and our eternal gratitude. May God grant that all the countries of the world become aware of the great value of this most eminent Latin American.

I also want to express my satisfaction with the statement made by Ambassador Mario Moya Palencia, because it represents the position of the Mexican Government and people toward Panama, toward the people's liberation cause, toward the right of self-determination, and in favor of a united and independent Latin America.

I have admired Mexico ever since I was a young man. I admire its revolution. I admire the Mexican leadership because it has been able to overcome constant aggressions against Mexican sovereignty, dignity, and identity as a free and independent government.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to state our appreciation for all the Latin American and Caribbean countries that at the most critical moment in the aggression against my country raised their voices in anger at the SELA meeting. In our opinion, this attitude prevented an armed aggression, something that evidently was going to take place.

While it is true that we have not yet secured material aid to check the economic war the United States has declared against Panama, we cannot fail to acknowledgde the gesture within the framework of SELA, because it allowed us to survive with a slit throat, as a U.S. senator phrased it. This has made us perhaps the first case in history of a body surviving with a slit throat. This has been possible thanks to the awareness of the Panamanian people, to their strong desire to be a nation, and to the solidarity of the Latin American and Third World people who have continuously encouraged us to go on, to keep on struggling, and to uphold the dignity of Panama, a Latin American country that is your brother, that is saddened by your problems and made happy by your achievements.

I said in my speech today that we have experienced great difficulties. We take this opportunity to state a fact that still does not appear crystal clear even to the friendly nations that have morally backed us at all times. I refer to democracy in my country. Because they are influenced by disinformation or because they use a specific standard of democracy, more than a few think some aspects of democracy are being violated in Panama. It has been pointed out that we have closed some newspapers and two radio stations and that we do not permit certain events to take place in Panama. This has been regarded as an attack on human rights. But I think we do well in saying, as we have said several times, that we defend freedom of expression, that we believe the people should express their will freely. At the same time, however, we feel it is our duty to preserve our country's fundamental value; that is, to be a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

When local newspapers speak on behalf of a foreign country's aggression, we cannot regard this as free expression by our people. We fully recognize the right to express ideas and demonstrate, but when the newspapers' reports and those demonstrations are directed from the U.S. Embassy—whose government, as I said today, does not recognize our government but assumes the right of staying in our country, has not broken relations with our government but does not withdraw from Panama, and, in addition, maintains a diplomatic status and uses it in our country under the authority of a government it does not recognize only because that power knows we cannot do anything other than suffer the humiliation—when Panamanians act under the influence of a foreign interest, we must defend ourselves.

This is why it might be a little hard for friendly countries to understand our position. If we pass judgment on a friendly country that suspends personal rights when threatened by local rebels or by acts that threaten its legal and democratic government and regard it as a violation of democracy, we would be judging actions that should rightfully be judged by this friendly country's free and sovereign will and self-determination.

This is exactly what has happened in Panama. We congratulate ourselves at this time because time has helped return things to normal. Today there is a greater understanding of the Panamanian problem. That northern country's attempt to attack us and try to economically subjugate us can now be seen more clearly. Now we can better understand why it has tried to prevent us from getting answers for the demands of the country's popular sectors. This country has been trying to bend the Panamanian people's will.

Their mistake has been to not know the force that has shaped the Panamanian people's mind. They also did not know that Latin American countries, despite their possible disagreement on their views of the Panamanian problem, basically backed us. Each of our peoples has the right to be free, sovereign, independent, and self-determining.

This is the common factor that unites us. This is the point at which we all coincide. And stemming from here, from the history that has united us throughout so many years, we can continue to struggle for the defense of our Latin American and Caribbean countries, for their survival, and for the betterment of all our governments and peoples. Any difference of style can be totally overcome. Panama wants always to be at the conversation tables, to exchange ideas and experiences, seeking the common denominator so that our combined wills become one to confront anyone who wishes to change our history, our

culture, our identity as a nation. It is within this Latin American strength that we feel the deepest pride at being here today before you, to be able to speak emotionally to our Latin American brothers, with whom we are even willing to change course if the decision to do so is made in agreement with friends, with people who share with us the best aspirations and who have for us the most sincere expressions of best wishes, peace, tranquillity, and prosperity. I greet all of you with expressions of brotherhood, the expressions of brotherhood of our people, and our deep appreciation for the solidarity you have always shown us. We hope this solidarity will be strengthened in an even broader and more decisive manner to prevent, as I said before, Panama's being not only the first but the last country attacked in such a violent, unjust, and infamous manner. Thank you very much.

Reagan UN Party Invitation 'Tacit Recognition'
PA2709141988 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] The invitation issued by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter yesterday is a tacit recognition of the Panamanian Government.

The Reagan government invited Ritter to a reception yesterday at 1800 on the occasion of the 43d UN General Assembly in New York.

As a facsimile of the invitation shows, the dinner was held in the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel's "Empire Room."

The invitation issued to Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter came from the White House and from President Reagan, who requested "the pleasure of the company" of the Panamanian foreign minister at the reception.

[CRITICA publishes a 4-by-5 facsimile of a printed invitation that reads: "The White House"; this is followed by the handwritten words: "His Excellency, Jorge E. Ritter, minister of foreign affairs of Panama;" this is followed by a seal and the printed words: "The President requests the pleasure of your company at a reception in recognition of the forty-third United Nations General Assembly on Monday evening, September 26, 1988, at 6 o'clock; The Waldorf Astoria, The Empire Room, Park Avenue Entrance"]

Juan Sosa Leads Protesters Against Solis Speech
PA2809022488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The EFE news agency has reported from New York that about 100 Panamanians, led by Juan Sosa, Panamanian ambassador to Washington, staged a demonstration today. Shouts and posters protested General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to the UN General Assembly.

PPA, Crusade Member Deny FDP Accusations
PA2709202788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1910 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Endara, secretary general of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA), the largest opposition force in Panama, today rejected the charges issued yesterday by two high-ranking Panama Defense Forces (FDP) officers. The military officers linked PPA members with alleged guerrilla operations aimed at ousting General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Endara told ACAN-EFE that "he considers worthless the statements made by Jose Serracin," a PPA activitist who was arrested on 23 September. Serracin admitted during a news conference organized by Panamanian military intelligence that he had participated in a plot against the state's security. [passage omitted]

Endara denied the charges and stated that "we exchanged information with Serracin" daily, but he insisted that "everything had referred to the party's internal situation."

Serracin said during the news conference organized by the Panamanian military high command that he had informed Endara about a meeting with Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

Endara added: "I will say nothing else" until "Serracin issues a declaration to the legal authorities in the presence of a lawyer."

"I believe Serracin issued his declaration because he was tortured"; therefore, the "declaration has no legal or moral value," Endara asserted.

Raul Mulino, member of the Civic Crusade, also believes the military officers' charges concerning the formation of alleged guerrilla cells in this country "are a pack of lies." Mulino said the news conference organized by the FDP to report the so-called "psychological operations" and guerrilla activities reportedly organized with U.S. support and carried out by a group of Panamanians was "a show the Panamanian people are tired of watching."

"No one knows why (Giovanni) Carlucci—one of the other prisoners shown yesterday to the news media—and the other one (Serracin) said what they said yesterday on television," Mulino added.

The Panamanian opposition leader asserted: "One would sign any confession at 0200 in a G-2 (military intelligence service) room, because your life is in danger."

Mulino said when the FDP reports "serious events," such as the creation of guerrilla groups, "they should make the charges in the presence of the alleged culprits' lawyers."

The Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, and Industries of Panama also issued a communique today to protest "the latest arrests of responsible and honest citizens in our country."

Foreign Ministry Communique on Nonaligned Meeting
PA2709144388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry issued a communique today expressing its unswerving commitment to the struggles of the Nonaligned Movement countries' ideals and principles and with the national liberation organizations and movements that participated in the conference of the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers held in September in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Foreign Ministry also expressed its gratitude for the solidarity given to the Panamanian cause in the political and economic statement issued by the Nicosia conference. The Nonaligned Movement document demanded that the United States immediately lift its sanctions against Panama. The sanctions, the document stated, are in flagrant violation of international law.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry's communique reaffirmed the Panamanian people's and government's rejection of all forms of dependence and direct or indirect intervention by foreign countries, and it advocated just and peaceful solutions to international problems.

Human Rights Committee Reports Violations
PA2709131588 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The Panamanian Human Rights Committee today reported in a news conference the arbitrary arrests of Panamanian citizens by the government, which is in violation of the Constitution, the laws, and human rights. The committee said that those arrested are being held incommunicado and that they are not allowed access to legal counsel from their lawyers. The committee reported that raids and arrests are made without legal authorization. It added that the Supreme Court of Justice ignores the proper proceedings on writs of habeas corpus.

The committee released a list containing the names of 28 people who had been arrested on Thursday, 22 September, but who have so far been held incommunicado. It cited the special case of Dr Leonardo Figueroa, arrested on 25 August 1988. He has been held incommunicado and his whereabouts are unknown. A writ of habeas corpus submitted weeks ago has been ignored.

Rita de Conte, wife of well-known public relations figure Alberto Conte, today lodged formal charges with the president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, Dr Osvaldo Velasquez, regarding the disappearance of her husband following his arrest last Thursday by the Defense Forces. Rita de Conte said that she reached the conclusion that he had disappeared after undertaking many legal and personal efforts to find her husband, Alberto Conte. She has not been allowed to see him or to determine his physical condition.

People's Party Holds Convention, Adopts Symbol
PA2709231588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 5

[From the "Famous Letters to Tula" column by Changmarin]

[Excerpts] On Sunday, at the appointed time, the constituent congress of the People's Party, held at the Atlapa [Convention Center], came to a close, after being attended by 175 delegates, special guests from other political parties, and other guests, who filled the Portobelo Room. Every step in the proceedings took place in an orderly fashion, the most notable event being the magnificent speech given by Ruben Dario Souza, the newly-elected general secretary, who analyzed the crisis produced by Yankee aggression, the nature of the current government, and the importance of seeking support in the mass movement for a government that will carry out a program leading to national liberation. To counter the gringos' slogan: "Like it or not, we are going to stay," Ruben says that we say: "Like it or not, you are going to leave."

There was a lively discussion regarding the adoption of a symbol to be used exclusively for electoral purposes. There were several proposals, including one that had a red star surrounded by three spears (the spears of our Indian ancestors). The star represents the struggle of all people to achieve national liberation, and the spears represent the three forces that drive that struggle; namely, the working class, the peasant workers, and the wide layer of the middle class. [passage omitted]

In the end, a modified version of the star and spears won.

Soviet Reporter on Visit, Perestroyka, Ties
PA2709194388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Interview with Soviet reporter Vadim Polyakovskiy, editorial council member and Latin American department editor in chief of ZA RUBEZHOM, by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Polyakovskiy] I am here because of an invitation by the Panamanian-Soviet Cultural Institute, which has just been born or is about to be born; I wanted to be present at the painless birth of this institution. I think it will serve to better provide information about the Panamanian and Soviet peoples. I also came to learn more about the situation in Panama. This is not my first visit to Panama; for the past 30 yers, I have been interested in learning about the situation and seeing the evolution of the country, which is why...

[Reporter, interrupting] Would you briefly describe perestroyka? That term is very well known in this country and the Western world.

[Polyakovskiy] The well-known word perestroyka literally means rebuilding or renewal. I would prefer to use another word although I like perestroyka. In practice, perestroyka means the second revolution in my country. It covers radical economic and political changes, and other changes.

[Reporter] What are the first steps that have been taken in that respect?

[Polyakovskiy] We are implementing economic reforms. Among other things, the changes include total self-management in every enterprise and agricultural farm. This is being carried out. In the 3 years the perestroyka process has been in effect—since Mikhail Gorbachev's rise to power—there have been certain political changes. The changes include democratization of the country; the possibility of respecting human rights in practice, not just in theory as before; and freedom of expression. One of the most tangible results has been the new role of the Soviet press. I confess: For many years, the Soviet press did not play an important role; it had to please the authorities instead of criticizing or seeking ways to correct mistakes. We never mentioned mistakes. It was easier to talk about mistakes in the West and abroad while looking the other way regarding the errors committed by Soviet authorities. We are now criticizing. We are seeking more just ways to correct mistakes that some or many Soviet leaders have been committing for many years.

[Reporter] How are commercial and diplomatic relations between our two countries?

[Polyakovskiy] There are no diplomatic relations with Panama; there have never been diplomatic relations between Panama and the USSR. I understand why. I hope diplomatic relations are established in the not-too-distant future. As for trade, either there is no trade, unfortunately, or the existing trade is insignificant. We Soviets are very familiar with Ecuadoran and Colombian bananas. We have had no opportunity to eat Panamanian bananas. I feel Panamanian bananas are much better than Ecuadoran or Colombian bananas. I hope we begin and increase trade, and that it is as beneficial for Panama as for the USSR.

Argentina

Retired Commodore Sentenced for Airport Rebellion

PY2709213888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1726 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Sep (TELAM)—The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has sentenced Commodore Luis Fernando Estrella, retired, to a 12-year prison term and removed him from the Air Force after he was found guilty of the crime of military rebellion. He headed an attempt to take over the metropolitan airport squadron and inspire a revolt in the 7th Air Force Brigade of Moron on 18 January 1988.

This information was released today by the military court, which also handed down prison term sentences ranging from 3 to 8 years for other military personnel who participated in the 18 January 1988 attempt to take over the metropolitan airport squadron and the facilities of the Air Force base and the civilian airport, and to inspire a revolt in the 7th Air Force Brigade.

CNEA Official Explains Atucha I Failure

PY2709145488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1959 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Sep (TELAM)—Bernardo Murmis, the director of nuclear plants of the CNEA, this afternoon told TELAM that the Atucha I nuclear plant will not go into service before 10 November. He added that within 2 weeks we will be in a position to specify the date when it will go into service.

The CNEA has already reported that repairs are being made to the Atucha I plant, which was closed down manually on 15 August 1988 when a failure was discovered in a section of the reactor's refrigeration system, probably caused by water entering the moderator system.

The CNEA reported today that in no way has the security of the reactor or the personnel been affected by the failure, that there had been no radioactive leak, and that the environment has not been contaminated, because with this type of problem the reactor is inherently secure.

The nuclear plant was closed down for 72 hours in May 1988, and from then until 15 August, it had operated normally. CNEA President Emma Perez Ferreira had stated to the press that Atucha I would become serviceable within 15 to 20 days.

The CNEA's Public Relations Department has now reported that the problem affecting the plant is unusual, because when the failure occurred heavy water passed from the refrigeration system, at a temperature of 300 degrees centigrade, into the moderator system, where the heavy water circulates at 200 degrees centigrade, thus causing a reduction of the moderator's density, which in turn caused a failure in the fusion of the Uranium-235, and this closed the reactor down.

The report adds that under the inspection program, three refrigeration channels have been taken out, including the damaged one that caused the shutdown, and the moderator has been inspected. Adjacent refrigeration channels have also been inspeced, including the fuel elements that had been placed in the damaged refrigeration channel.

Finally, the report indicates that work plans have been drawn up for inspection and repair on the basis of already existing maintenance procedures. The job is being carried out by technicians of the Nuclear Plants and Research and Development Directorates of the CNEA, the Empresa Argentina de Centrales Electricas (ENACE), and the Siemens-KWU enterprise, which helped analyze and diagnose the failure.

Bolivia

Bedregal on Sea Outlet Issue, Nonaligned Meeting

PY2809020088 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
20 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] The Bolivian Foreign Ministry is assessing remarks by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, seeking bilateral agreements regarding the Bolivian sea outlet problem. Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez stated that the Bolivian position is the same as that submitted in Montevideo, where documents were given to the Chilean Government in order to achieve definite agreements.

Bedregal Gutierrez, who recently returned from Nicosia, Cyprus, where he attended the meeting of nonaligned countries, yesterday met with President Victor Paz Estenssoro to brief him on the meetings he held with other presidents, particularly those of Israel and Egypt. "I believe this is a special matter that will be discussed within the framework of the OAS, because we are people of good will and are willing to hold talks within the democratic system," he stated.

He added that the international community supports Bolivia's intention to return to the Pacific coast following the achievements with the Chilean Government.

He said that treaties signed in the past have been overcome, thanks to the good policy of peaceful coexistence.

The Bolivian foreign minister stated that the United States and Panama have agreed to review the agreements to adopt a better international position.

"Our position is the basis for negotiations, and we believe it is the most prudent and the most feasible. Any proposal must be reviewed point by point," he stated.

Within the next few days the minister must explain the Bolivian position on this matter at the UN General Assembly. He will also give further details to the OAS, where he will try to achieve a resolution of this 100-year-old problem.

Bedregal Gutierrez reported that he made the trip in conformity with national interests. He said that, in addition to adopting a position regarding the foreign debt and other matters at the nonaligned countries' conference, we secured approval of a paragraph mentioning the Bolivian sea outlet problem. He added that Israel has announced it will send a technical delegation to Bolivia next month to expand the current level of relations, not only to reactivate the economy but also develop technology Bolivia badly needs.

During a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bedregal Gutierrez was able to exchange ideas. It was decided at the meeting that Egypt would send a technical delegation within the next few months.

Speaks to UN on Outlet, Drugs

PY2709135188 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] During his address to the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal stated Bolivia hopes international solidarity will help in seeking diplomatic bilateral negotiations with Chile leading to a definitive solution to the problem of being landlocked.

Begregal requested that the countries of the hemisphere seek adequate support for an end to this very old problem. This mutilation was never accepted by my country. We have, for more than 100 years, made every effort to seek a solution to this problem through direct negotiations, with, as of 1979, the participation and diplomatic and political support of the OAS, he stated.

The foreign minister said Bolivia needs a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean to restore its status as a country with a seaboard. This will end the political, economic, and moral harm being suffered by Bolivia.

This situation also has a political and diplomatic aspect that is directed at repairing an historical injustice, the minister indicated, and he acknowledged that there are bilateral agreements that can be improved and updated on the basis of current realities.

The foreign minister outlined the details of this situation, maintaining that Bolivia suggested a real possibility to resolve the problem when it presented, in Montevideo, a negotiating position that would have helped integration, peace, and development.

Bedregal asked for international solidarity to realize a bilateral diplomatic effort that reflects current realities and avoids tension, a diplomatic effort that will allow Bolivia to regain its place among the community of countries that have seaboards.

The foreign minister also asked the nations of the world, especially the United States, to increase their participation in the fight against drug trafficking.

He noted Bolivia is conducting a program involving the eradication of drug trafficking. He said that to achieve this goal the country has approved modern legislation and is directing efforts toward coca leaf plantation substitution, but it is evident these efforts may not achieve anything if the industrialized countries such as the United States do not contribute with the promised financial resources.

Bedregal stated that his country is making this call in order to obtain help in the definitive eradication of the illegal use and trafficking of drugs.

The Bolivian foreign minister also spoke about other topics, such as world peace, making it clear the world's governments must seek common purposes in order to respond to a real historical challenge.

Bedregal concluded his address by saying: May God bless world peace.

Decree Appointing New Cabinet Released

PY2709193888 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] The following is the text of the decree appointing the new cabinet that will cooperate with President of the Republic Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro:

Whereas:

The ministers have resigned their posts.

The secretariats of state require constant attention and, therefore, exercising the powers provided for under Article No 99 of the Constitution, a new cabinet must be immediately appointed.

Decrees:

Article 1—The following citizens are hereby appointed ministers of state: Dr Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez as foreign affairs and worship minister; Dr Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo as interior, migration, and justice minister; Alfonso Revollo Thenier as national defense minister; Fernando Romero Moreno as planning and coordination minister; Ramiro Cabezas Massas as finance minister; Enrique Ipina Melgar as education and culture minister; Andres Petricevic Raznatovic as transport and communications minister; Engineer Luis F. Palenque Cordero as industry, commerce and tourism minister;

Dr Luis Alfonso Pena Rueda as labor and labor development minister; Dr Joaquin Arce Lema as social security and public health minister; Dr Jaime Villalobos Sanjines as mining and metallurgy minister; Jose Guillermo Justiniano Sandoval as campesino and livestock and agriculture affairs minister; Engineer Fernando Illanes de la Riva as energy and hydrocarbons minister; Franklin Anaya Vasquez as urban affairs minister; Dr Walter H. Zuleta Roncal as minister secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic; Hermann Antelo Laughlin as information minister; and Air Force Division General Jaime Zegada Hurtado as aeronautics minister.

In the name of the cabinet just installed, the Bolivian foreign minister emphasized the current government's performance and said that the newly-appointed ministers will continue the work to strengthen the new economic policy and guarantee domestic stability and peace.

Planning Minister on Economic Reactivation

PY2709154388 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Just after he was sworn in at Government House, Fernando Romero, the new planning and coordination minister, stressed that he will continue the policy implemented in August 1985 because he is committed to it, because he had modestly participated in drafting the guidelines of the economic policy, and because he now hopes to continue the aggressiveness and imagination demonstrated by his predecessor.

"The new economic policy was outlined some time ago," he added, "and all we have to do now is to apply it intelligently and efficiently."

He admitted that his will be a short tenure, but said he has plans for improving the economic model and he will implement these plans on the basis of the experience he gained when he headed the Emergency Social Fund. "We have to struggle and give it the social aspect that only a few people demand but that will become a reality with reactivation."

"The economic reactivation," he explained, "is essentially a problem of confidence; it is the reconquering and the reaffirmation of confidence, and this has to start at the lower levels. I believe that somehow this has already started. Moreover, the government and I are willing to seek the most direct channels to achieve this reactivation, with the reaffirmation of confidence."

It is not a 1-day battle, he added. It will take us a long time to restore this confidence.

Answering reporters' questions, Romero stated that the question of the debt, including the trade, bilateral, and multinational debts, has been handled very well by the government.

He reported that the problem of the foreign debt is one of the first missions with which he has been charged, and we are now outlining our best stance with the World Bank for submitting new requests.

Chile

Government Refuses Visa to Bolivian Deputy

PY2709194588 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The Chilean Government has refused entry into the country to Bolivian Deputy Mario Rueda, who wanted to come to Chile as an observer at the invitation of the International Parliamentary Assembly for Democracy in Chile, APAINDE [Asamblea Internacional Parlamentaria por la Democracia en Chile]. Luis Paretto, a former deputy and current president of APAINDE, has released this information, adding that the Chilean regime has refused to grant the Bolivian deputy a visa.

Paretto said the Bolivian Congress has decided not to send any observers and approved a motion to expel the Chilean consul from Bolivia.

Paretto stated that the Chilean Government's refusal to grant a visa to Deputy Rueda is proof of the true intentions of the government with only 9 days to go to the plebiscite.

[Begin Paretto recording] We extend full solidarity to the Bolivian lawmaker. The refusal to grant him a visa proves this government does not want independent observers coming to see whether the upcoming plebiscite will be honest and straighforward, and hopes to prevent them from doing so. [end recording]

Paretto added guest observers should know that in Chile the opposition must endure many outrages, such as the government's excessive use of state television. [passage omitted]

APAINDE leaders have reported that 232 representatives of various European and Latin American congresses have confirmed their trips to Chile. They will begin arriving in Chile on Saturday. Furthermore, 80 additional lawmakers who have no official status will also visit Chile.

Poll Shows Declining Support for Yes-Vote

PY2709041888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 26 Sep (EFE)—According to a poll conducted by the Christian Humanism Academy [Academia de Humanismo Cristiana—AHC], 47 percent of the Chileans would have voted "No" and 19.6 percent "Yes" had the 5 October plebiscite been held between 9 and 17 September 1988.

This poll is the first one conducted after General Augusto Pinochet was chosen sole candidate by the Armed Forces and the electoral campaign started.

The results show that 13.5 percent have still not decided and 17.2 percent "do not know or did not respond."

According to the Chilean Constitution, which was enacted by Pinochet himself in 1981, his candidacy must be approved or rejected during the 5 October plebiscite.

Should the majority of Chileans vote "Yes," Pinochet would extend his presidential term from 11 March 1989 until 1997, but should the majority vote "No," there would be direct elections in 1990 with the participation of the various political parties.

Enrique Detigni, AHC director and vice rector of the University of Chile, upon disclosing the results of the poll today, said that during the poll Chileans over the age of 18 who have registered with the electoral registry office were interviewed. The poll sampled 2,400 cases considered to be representative of 98.13 percent of the voters, with a 2.25 percent margin of error.

Carlos Huneeus, of the Center for Contemporary Studies (CERC), which is subordinate to the AHC, said the poll covered 116 Chilean cities, towns, and villages.

Huneeus said the drop in support for the "Yes" vote and the increasing popularity of the "No" vote is mainly the result of "the intelligent and united campaign carried out by the opposition parties, and the mistaken campaign of the 'Yes' vote supporters, who have insisted on a campaign based on economic facts and a candidate who looks faded, tired, and even worn out."

The CERC pointed out that in November 1987, 31.1 percent supported the "Yes" option; in July 1988, the support for this option increased to 36.6 percent; last August, it dropped to 30.8 percent; and in the last poll, it dropped to 19.6 percent.

In November 1987 40.3 percent supported the "No" option; last July, the same figure; last August, 40.6 percent; and in this last poll, 47 percent.

In commenting on the drop in support for the "Yes" vote, Huneeus added that "General Pinochet has lost the image of strength and power he had until the beginning of the electoral campaign. Now Chileans have begun to see him as his campaign advisers want: a calm civilian who wants to be a democrat."

Huneeus, who has a degree in political science, also said that "the government has not been able to convince Chileans that only it can solve the economic problems, and the opposition appears more likely to do so."

Although this poll does not predict the future, but "rather depicts the moment in which it was conducted," Huneeus believes that "it is almost impossible for the 'Yes' option to recover lost strength given the free and open plebiscite Chileans desire."

Residents Prevented From Joining Temuco March

PY2709151788 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Sep 88

[by Jose Ignacio Aguirre from Temuco]

[Text] Temuco residents were very disappointed when the Carabineros refused to authorize hundreds of people, who took to the streets, to join the march of happiness, and the young marchers had to go directly to the rally now being held at a skating rink on Balmaceda Street.

Leaders of the provincial and national command for the No-vote, headed by Ricardo Lagos, unsuccessfully tried to obtain the appropriate authorization, trying to make the marcher's entry into Temuco as spectacular as it has been in other cities.

Thus, everything is behind schedule as the rally was scheduled to begin at 1830.

Although many people—whole families—took to the streets to meet the march of happiness, they were very disappointed because of the ban imposed by the Carabineros. Nevertheless, the sponsors expect the turnout to exceed 15,000 people.

Ricardo Lagos and Jorge Lavanderos are among the rally's main speakers.

After the rally in Temuco ends, the march of happiness will continue toward Los Angeles in the 8th Region.

General Says Military Will Prevent Left Victory

PY2709190988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1528 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 27 Sep (EFE)—General Eduardo Ibanez, the intendant of the Chilean city of Concepcion, has said that "as long as there is a military man in Chile, the left has no chance to assume power."

In a speech delivered on 26 September, Gen Ibanez urged the people "not to listen to the Marxists." He said: "Like 1973 (the year of the military coup), when we hunted them out of their hideouts, they should not harbor any doubts that we will hunt them out again if they interfere."

Speaking about the electoral campaign for the upcoming plebiscite, Gen Ibanez said that whenever General Augusto Pinochet is attacked "the Armed Forces are attacked."

In accordance with the Constitution enforced in 1981 by Gen Pinochet, who is now the Armed Forces' sole candidate, he must be either approved or rejected in the plebiscite scheduled for 5 October 1988.

If the majority of Chileans vote "yes," Gen Pinochet will remain as president until 11 March 1997. If the majority vote "no," there will be direct and multiparty elections in 1990.

Peru

Gonzales on 'Crisis,' Need for Integration

PY2709035088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Gonzales Posada, during his speech at the UN General Assembly today, issued a warning about the alarming social and economic crisis in Latin America and stressed the need for regional integration as the only way to confront it.

Gonzales Posada said Latin American countries should adopt joint strategies to renegotiate their foreign debts under acceptable and realistic conditions.

Minister Seeks End to 'Protectionist' Policies

PY2709205188 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] During the session of the World Bank Development Committee, Economy and Finance Minister Abel Salinas asked the most industrialized countries to lift protectionist barriers against trade with developing countries. Salinas put forth the Peruvian position, criticized protectionist measures, and pointed out that the economic achievements of the industrialized countries have not been reflected in the developing countries.

The committee met the day before the 43d Assembly of the World Bank and of the IMF were formally opened in West Berlin.

Minister Salinas has met with Sahib Hussein, vice president of the World Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean, who praised the measures adopted by the Peruvian Government to fight inflation. Salinas also met with Guillermo Castaneda, president of the Andean Reserve Fund, and asked for at least an advance of $50 million on a $290-million loan that has yet to be approved.

Shining Path Reportedly Kills 44 Peasants

PY2609170988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 25 Sep (EFE)—According to military sources and people who arrived today in Ayacucho from the La Mar area, 44 peasants have been killed in two townships of La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department.

Yesterday a column of Shining Path terrorists arrived in the village of Chinchipe, in the jungle province of La Mar, and shot 16 peasants who were members of the peasant patrols that oppose the terrorists.

The Shining Path guerrillas, who burned murdered peasants' houses, charged them with collaborating with the Army. The town of Chinchipe is 220 km north of Ayacucho.

Travellers arriving from La Mar Province said that on 23 September 28 bodies of alleged peasants were found near the town of Chullas.

The bodies showed signs of torture and bullet wounds, but the identity of the murderers apparently could not be determined.

Soldiers, 'Terrorists' Die in Ayacucho Clash

PY2709040288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 26 Sep (EFE)—Military sources from Ayacucho have reported to EFE that three officers and seven soldiers of the Peruvian Army, and 15 members of the Maoist guerrilla Shining Path Movement today died in combat, in the department of Huancavelica.

The confrontation between the Army and the "Shining Path" members took place near a mine in the Andean mountains located at an altitude of 4,000 meters, in the district of Huachocolpa, some 30 km south of Huancavelica, capital of the department of the same name.

Ayacucho is the base of the military command that controls Huancavelica and Apurimac Departments, due to the "Shining Path" activities.

A communique released by the military command states that on 20 September, two Shining Path members died in another clash, in the Ucro sector, in the northern part of Ayacucho District.